

Soviets reiterate tough Geneva stand

BUDAPEST (R) — A Soviet expert on the United States was quoted Saturday as saying that Moscow would offer no cuts in nuclear missiles at arms talks in Geneva unless Washington abandoned plans for a space-based anti-missile system. Georgi Arbatov, director of the institute for U.S. and Canadian Studies at the Soviet Academy of Sciences, said in an interview with Hungary's Communist Party daily Nepszabadsag: "I think it is already clear we will not agree to decrease strike weapons if they don't give up the anti-missile system." Recent U.S. statements pushing the "Star Wars" system contradicted an agreement between the U.S. and Soviet foreign ministers at a meeting in Geneva last month, he said. Mr. Arbatov said if the arms talks due to begin in Geneva next month lasted seven or eight years as previous talks had, they would be worthless as technology would overtake them.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordanian Press Syndicate
جوردان تيمز يومية مستقلة تخضع للمؤسسة الصحفية الاردنية والراي

Pakistan receives U.S. gunships

ISLAMABAD (R) — The Pakistan army said Friday it had received a first batch of Cobra helicopter gunships purchased from the United States. An army general headquarters announcement said the helicopters arrived Saturday at the army aviation base at Rawalpindi near Islamabad and would be formally inducted into the corps of aviation next month by President Mohammad Zia ul-Haq. It did not say how many of the gunships had been received, but Pakistan Defence Ministry Secretary General Rahim Khan said in an interview published early this week that a squadron of Cobra helicopters had arrived. The daily Jang quoted Mr. Khan as saying that the U.S. had also supplied to Pakistan 25 of 40 advanced F-16 jets promised under a \$3.2 billion military and economic aid package and that the remaining 15 would arrive by the end of the year.

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Egyptian culture minister arrives

AMMAN (Petra) — Egypt's Deputy Minister of Culture Fikri Saleh Saturday arrived here on an official visit during which he will discuss with Jordanian officials cultural cooperation between Jordan and Egypt. Following his arrival Mr. Saleh met with Minister of Culture, Tourism and Antiquities Taher Hikmat and discussed with him issues pertaining to organizing an Egyptian cultural week in Amman at the end of April and holding a Jordanian cultural week in Cairo at a later date.

2 Israelis killed in Lebanon

BEIRUT (R) — Two Israeli soldiers were killed Saturday when an explosive device went off under their vehicle as it passed the village of Ain Majdalein, just south of Jezzine and behind Israel's new "front line" after the completion of the first stage of the three-stage Israeli pullout plan, Beirut Radio said.

Arafat meets Romanian president

VIENNA (R) — Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat has met Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu to discuss intensifying diplomatic efforts to bring about a political settlement in the Middle East. Agence Press news agency said. The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) chief and Mr. Ceausescu reiterated a call for an international conference within the United Nations to include all states with interests in the Middle East. Agence Press said in a report from Bucharest, Mr. Arafat's trip comes just before a visit by Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres to Bucharest next week, and U.S.-Soviet talks on the Middle East in Vienna next Tuesday and Wednesday.

Dumas ends visit to Morocco

RABAT (R) — French External Relations Minister Roland Dumas left for home Saturday after talks with King Hassan and Moroccan government leaders. His 24-hour visit to Morocco was part of a tour of North Africa. He was in Algeria on Tuesday for talks with President Chadli Benjedid and is expected in Tunisia later this month. Mr. Dumas had talks with King Hassan, Prime Minister Mohammed Karim Lamrani, Foreign Minister Abdul Wahed Belkeziz and other ministers Friday.

17th man detained in Indian spy case

NEW DELHI (AP) — A retired government employee was reported arrested Saturday in India's spy scandal. United News of India said the suspect was arrested at his New Delhi residence, but did not disclose his name. He is the 17th person arrested in the espionage scandal. The others are 11 government officials or employees, one retired civil servant and four businessmen.

Israelis complete first stage of pullout

Lebanese army deploys in Sidon

SIDON, Lebanon (Agencies) — Crowds near-hysterical with joy mobbed Lebanese soldiers Saturday as they took over Sidon from departing Israeli troops at the end of their long occupation of the city.

Pandemonium broke out in the main square as the first truckloads crammed with Lebanese troops and shouting, flag-waving well-wishers rolled in at 2.25 p.m. (12.25 GMT) to a frantic welcome from about 3,000 people.

A boy scout band played martial music, women clapped and ululated, men shouted and chanted "Welcome, Welcome, God is Great," and people on balconies hurled handfuls of rice at the troops.

The trucks, festooned with Lebanese flags, were followed 10 minutes later by a long column of tanks, armoured personnel carriers (APCs) and trucks that fanned out to occupy the port and a strategic hill overlooking the city.

The army entered South Lebanon's main city in force more than three hours after the last Israeli soldiers quietly abandoned the last of their "front line" positions on the Awali River just outside Sidon.

In Beirut, Prime Minister Rashid Karami said it was "a great, historic day... it is the day of liberation, the day that Lebanese sovereignty returns to this dear homeland."

Watched by Chief of Staff General Moshe Levy, the last two Israeli Merkava tanks and three APCs left the heavily-fortified Awali Bridge crossing at 11.05 a.m. (0905 GMT).

Twenty-five minutes later, Lebanese tank force commander Colonel Hassan Tout and a squad of crouching infantrymen with rifles at the ready approached the bridge, after a swarm of journalists had followed the departing Israeli tanks.

Herut seeks to establish office inside Hebron city

AMMAN (Agencies) — The Betar youth movement of the Israeli Herut Party led by Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir is planning to establish its headquarters in the occupied West Bank city of Hebron, according to reports reaching here from the occupied territories.

Betar has announced its plans to build its new headquarters at the top of the Rumaidah hill at the centre of the city, the reports said. Analysts here see the move as part of plans of the Likud bloc, to which the Herut belongs, to expand the Jewish neighbourhood of Hebron on the expense of its Palestinian inhabitants, especially after a ban on 42 inhabitants of the Rumaidah hill not to extend their houses or plant trees, the Jordanian News Agency, Petra, said.

Betar is a military movement established in the 1920s, and has declared its aim as the eviction of Palestinians from their homeland through acts of terrorism.

Meanwhile, an Israeli siege of the villages of Hosan, Nahalen, Baateer, Al Khader and Artas, all adjacent to the Dheish refugee camp near Bethlehem, entered its second week Saturday.

Reports from the West Bank say that the Israeli occupation authorities continue to forbid the inhabitants these villages from leaving their villages while Israeli patrols continue raids into people's homes.

Israeli security forces also imposed a curfew on another Palestinian refugee camp in the occupied West Bank after two firebombs were thrown at an Israeli military vehicle, military sources said Saturday.

The sources, quoted by the Associated Press, said that the curfew on Tulkarm refugee camp was imposed at 7 p.m. Friday.

acting Israelis.

As Lebanese tanks and trucks roared onto the bridge, with a bulldozer smashing aside concrete and earthwork Israeli fortifications, carloads of excited, flag-waving Sidon inhabitants roared up the muddy road to shout their welcome.

Hundreds of men, women and children brought the troops to a halt at the far end of the bridge by clambering onto tanks, trucks and APCs in a state of near-hysterical joy.

"Long live the Lebanese army. We want the Lebanese army. God is Great," they shouted, holding up the column for 30 minutes before the first APC got through, siren wailing, and headed for Sidon.

In Tel Aviv the Israeli army announced that it has completed the first stage of its pullback in Lebanon.

The Israeli military command released a statement that said "the first stage of the evacuation was completed... without any mishaps."

Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin, speaking on Israeli Radio, said that while the Lebanese government had refused to formally coordinate with Israel on deploying Lebanese troops in the area vacated by Israel, "we found certain ways of local coordination with the Lebanese force." He did not elaborate.

Mr. Rabin also noted that while his government had set next Monday as the final date for completing the first-stage withdrawal, the pullback "took place today for our own reasons."

Committee lauds King's support for Palestinians

AMMAN (Petra) — The Higher Arab Committee for Palestine paid tribute to His Majesty King Hussein's national stance and his absolute support for the Palestine cause and the legitimate Palestinian rights.

In a statement issued Saturday on the first anniversary of the death of its late secretary general, Emil Al Ghourri, the committee expressed its "pride in the Jordanian policy" and stressed its "adherence to the unity of the Arab people on both banks of Jordan" and its "interest in safeguarding this unity, to serve as a nucleus for pan-Arab unity."

The committee also called for adherence to the Palestinian national charter and following the lines of those who fell in defence of Palestine. It praised the steadfastness of the population of the occupied West Bank who are "encountering the Zionist plans aimed at evicting them from their homeland."

The committee also expressed its regret over the continuation of war between Iran and Iraq and appealed to all Arabs and Muslims to work for putting an end to this war to enable Iraq to stand by the Arabs in their fight against Israel.

Beirut librarian Peter Kilburn, who failed to report to work Dec. 3, and Catholic priest Lawrence Martin Jenco, abducted Jan. 8, were among the missing.

Meanwhile, Mohammad Ali, the former world boxing champion, arrived in Beirut Saturday on a mission a delegation member said was aimed at comforting the families of hostages held by Islamic Jihad.

"We are here to do what we can, with the help of Allah, to free the hostages," he told reporters. "We are not here for a fight. This is not a publicity stunt or a campaign," said Jabir Mohammad, one of Ali's aides. "We have nothing definite to say till we accomplish our mission."

Ali's one-man mercy mission follows a similar initiative last year by Jesse Jackson, American black civil rights campaigner and contender for the Democratic Party's nomination in the last U.S. presidential election campaign.

Rev. Jackson travelled to Damascus in January 1984 and persuaded Syrian leaders to free U.S. pilot Robert Goodman, shot down by Syrian ground fire in Lebanon the previous month.

The pullback, the first of three scheduled withdrawals designed to get Israel out of the country it invaded in June 1982, was carried out "with coordination in the field between the (Israeli army) commanders and commanders of the Lebanese army," according to the statement released by the military spokesman.

President Amin Gemayel also gave credit for Israel's withdrawal to resistance forces who have inflicted a heavy toll on its troops in South Lebanon.

Addressing army commanders, ministers and parliamentarians, he urged the commanders to continue fighting, to drive out the Israelis from the rest of the south and the eastern Bekaa Valley.

"We cannot but salute the resistance which compelled the Israelis to withdraw," Mr. Gemayel said.

"We hope that this upsurge will continue in the Bekaa and the south so that we may achieve our objectives," he added.

But in Sidon, waiting crowds repeatedly dashed for cover as pairs of Israeli jets swooped over the city more than a dozen times, dropping leaflets in Arabic saying the Israelis would return to strike "without mercy" if resistance continued.

"The leaflets said: 'South Lebanon will have security, stability and peace as long as northern Israel enjoys these things.'"

There were no incidents as the army took over Sidon and paraded the entrances to the big Palestinian refugee camp of 'Ain Al Hilweh just outside the city.

Reporters heard no shooting as Lebanese troops also deployed in the countryside to big welcomes from Christian and Muslim villages evacuated by the Israelis.

Effects of Israeli pullout are far-reaching, page 4



Residents of the South Lebanese port city of Sidon jubilate on top of a Lebanese army vehicle which entered the city Saturday after Israeli troops evacuated the area as part of a three-stage withdrawal (AP wirephoto)

Mubarak says more steps needed to start peace talks

CAIRO (Agencies) — President Hosni Mubarak said Saturday the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement on a joint approach to Middle East peace was a step forward but more steps were needed to start negotiations with Israel.

He told reporters the accord reached by King Hussein and PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat last Monday was a "good step forward."

"But of course to start negotiations it needs many more steps forward. We are doing our best towards this," he said.

Mr. Mubarak, who will visit Washington next month, was asked if the accord was enough to persuade President Reagan of involving the United States more in the peace process. "I cannot promise, but I am going to do my best," the Egyptian president replied.

Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres told Israeli Television on Wednesday the agreement was "a step forward," but "it still does not have enough to open negotiations for peace."

Asked Saturday to comment on this, Mr. Mubarak said: "I think we both understand each other very well. As far as I am concerned, it (the agreement) is a very good step forward."

Asked about Syrian opposition to the agreement, Mr. Mubarak said: "I am not interfering. They (Syrians) can decide whatever they find convenient for themselves, and we can decide whatever we can find convenient for the peace process as a whole."

Mr. Mubarak said King Hussein will come to Cairo "soon" for consultations before the Egyptian leader goes to Washington. But when asked whether PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat also will visit Cairo, Mr. Mubarak replied: "I did not ask for that."

In an apparent reference to the Jordan-PLO agreement, Italian President Sandro Pertini, who began a three-day visit to Egypt Saturday, was quoted as saying Italy and the European Community (EC) were "carefully following and encouraging any efforts that can lead to peace."

He reiterated the EC stand in supporting a homeland for the Palestinians but said the PLO should rid itself of its internal disputes in order to achieve its "just aspiration for a homeland."

Mr. Pertini also told the Egyptian Al-Ahram daily that world peace would be endangered if the Middle East problem was not settled.

"Each of us (Egypt and Italy) are convinced that if peace was not stabilised in the Mideast, not only our countries would be endangered but also the whole world would be exposed to the same danger," Mr. Pertini told Al-Ahram.

"The hope in achieving progress in a region which was the birthplace of human civilisation would also collapse," Mr. Pertini added.

Mr. Pertini, accompanied by Foreign Minister Giulio Andreotti, began talks with President Mubarak immediately after arrival here Saturday.

Mr. Mubarak greeted Mr. Pertini at the presidential Koubbah palace where official welcoming ceremonies were held. The two leaders began talks immediately.

Osama Al Baz, director of Mr. Mubarak's political affairs office, told reporters on Thursday the PLO-Jordanian agreement should prompt the EC, among others, to assist in reviving the Middle East peace process.

Some progress made in Mideast, Reagan says, page 4

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Some progress made in Mideast, Reagan says, page 4

Soviet role in peace efforts contingent on diplomatic ties with Israel—U.S.

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. administration is prepared to tell the Soviet Union in Vienna next week that if Moscow resumes recognition of Israel and improves treatment of Soviet Jews, it could open the way to Moscow's participation in future Middle East peace talks.

A senior State Department official outlined for reporters Friday the American position in advance of discussions that will be held with the Soviets in Vienna next Tuesday and Wednesday on the Middle East situation.

The official, who spoke only on condition he not be identified, said the talks with Moscow should not in any way be considered negotiations that could lead to a joint U.S.-Soviet position on a Middle East peace. Richard W. Murphy, the assistant secretary of state for Middle East affairs will represent the United States.

The official who briefed reporters said Friday a decision by Moscow to resume relations with Israel would be welcome and could open the way to involvement of the Soviets in the search for a Middle East solution. "We have always said that the Soviets could not play a constructive role in (efforts for peace) the Middle East because they have relations with just one side of the conflict, the Arab Nations," he said.

If Moscow resumed relations, he said, "it would obviously be a sign of good will and a change of intentions by the Soviet Union." But he said he did not expect Moscow to make such a move at this time.

The Israeli diplomatic source and U.S. officials gave no clue as to what role Moscow could play in the peace process. The United States and Israel continue to favour direct negotiations between the Arabs and Israel as the best means for a lasting peace.

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Saudi king arrives in Nice from Washington

NICE, France (AP) — King Fahd of Saudi Arabia arrived on France's Cote d'Azur Saturday for a private visit which reliable sources said would include a meeting with President Francois Mitterrand.

King Fahd arrived in Nice from the United States, where he met with President Reagan earlier in the week for discussions that centred on the Middle East peace process.

Reliable sources, who could not be further identified, said that King Fahd would spend the weekend at his villa near Cannes then go to Paris at the beginning of the week to meet with Mr. Mitterrand.

It was not immediately known how long he would stay in France. He went to Washington last Sunday.

In Washington the Pentagon has told Congress it plans to sell Saudi Arabia sophisticated electronic aircraft identification gear worth about \$250 million.

The Pentagon said the sale of 629 Identification Friend or Foe (IFF) units would help modernise the Saudi air force and its air defences and reduce chances of an inadvertent war.

An IFF unit aboard a plane sends signals which planes with matching IFFs can return. Planes without matching IFFs do not respond and would be judged enemies.

The IFF transponders would be built by the Teledyne Corp of Los Angeles.

The Pentagon also told Congress it intended to sell the United Arab Emirates 45 Hawk ground-to-air missiles, at about \$21 million. The missiles would be built by the Raytheon Corp. Andover, Massachusetts.

The Pentagon said the sales would not conflict with a freeze imposed by the White House on all new Middle East arms sales pending a review of U.S. security policies in the region.

The Pentagon announcement, said, however, "the sale of this equipment and support will not affect the basic military balance in the region."

Welcoming King Fahd, the first Saudi head of state to visit Washington in 14 years, President Reagan indicated Monday that the U.S. would help Saudi Arabia meet its defence requirements.

No deals on Mideast in U.S.-Soviet talks in Vienna, page 4

UNESCO facing crisis over budget cuts

PARIS (R) UNESCO's executive board was deadlocked Saturday on how to cut spending to cope with the withdrawal of the United States.

Twelve hours of often heated discussions in a 12-member drafting group produced agreement on one minor step — a resolution hoping that the U.S. would rejoin as soon as possible.

Indian delegate T.N. Kanl, who chaired the group, said it had failed to agree on all other issues. Diplomats said the disagreement showed a fundamental split between Western countries on the one hand and Third World and Communist states on the other.

West German delegate Karl Moersch, one of the two Western representatives in the group, said he hoped it was the first and last time the would have to take part in such a meeting.

Nigerian delegate Mohammad Musa blamed Mr. Moersch's deputy Alfred Vestring for the deadlock, saying the West German diplomat had made it practically impossible to continue in a spirit of consensus.

Mr. Vestring defended his deputy, telling the board: "I state here that every word spoken in the discussion by Mr. Vestring was my word. I stopped because I was so upset. I know myself and I am not a man who can keep his blood very cool."

Mr. Vestring said afterwards he attributed the Nigerian diplomat's attack on him to "a moment of nervousness."

The board suspended its session to allow a last-ditch attempt to find a compromise.

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سكيتا من لاسل

ICRC worried about Israeli-held prisoners in S. Lebanon camps

BEIRUT (R) — Two senior International Red Cross officials said Saturday they were concerned about prisoners remaining in Israeli hands after Israel completes the first stage of its withdrawal from South Lebanon.

The president of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), Alexander Hay, told Reuters he was worried about at least 1,500 prisoners because Israel had failed to reply to ICRC questions about their fate.

Speaking in Beirut after a week in Lebanon, he said Israel held that the Fourth Geneva Convention, signed by 161 countries including Lebanon and Israel, did not apply to its 32-month-old occupation of the South.

"Legally we feel the Israeli position is very weak," Mr. Hay said. "Israeli troops Saturday pulled back from the Sidon area in the first stage of a three-phase withdrawal but say they will stay in other parts of the South until summer."

Jean Hoefliger, ICRC delegate-general for the Middle East, said the ICRC was trying to have the convention respected, "but without too many results." Access to prisoners was a major problem, he added.

"The Geneva Convention is not being implemented... the Israelis have always said it is a military operation, a police operation and by no means an occupation as described in the convention," said

Mr. Hoefliger.

The ICRC regularly visits some 1,500 prisoners at the Ansar Camp, which will remain in Israeli hands after the pullout from Sidon, and has recently begun visiting other detention centres.

"But we have access to people far too late and have the strong impression we don't have access to all centres," said Mr. Hoefliger, who was based in Lebanon during the 1975-76 civil war and has made frequent visits since then.

To avoid jeopardising access to prisoners, the ICRC does not comment on conditions for prisoners except when the government concerned makes its work impossible, he said.

Mr. Hoefliger said the ICRC had asked Israel about its plans for political prisoners, "but there has been no reply... they are in charge of the area and they should answer us."

Mr. Hay said he understood Lebanese negotiators had raised the issue at Lebanese-Israeli troop withdrawal talks that began in November and broke down last month, but no solution was reached.

"If we have the feeling... that one prisoner is not available to

us... the credibility of the system collapses and there is no way we are going to make a nice report," Mr. Hoefliger declared.

The ICRC needed immediate access to people under interrogation "since it is the period when they need protection most, as they could be ill-treated," he added.

Mr. Hoefliger said the ICRC was usually given immediate access to people wounded in clashes in the South.

Mr. Hay said community leaders in Sidon had given him the impression "all the different communities there... would cooperate to avoid any clash... What will happen after some months is difficult to say."

Mr. Hay said the estimated 60,000 Palestinian refugees in southern Lebanon were "certainly one of our preoccupations... but not the main one."

Mr. Hoefliger said they were a concern to the extent internal problems could develop between Palestinian moderates and hardliners in the camps.

Palestinian leaders have recently voiced concern about the possibility of massacres in the camps as the Israelis leave.

The ICRC did not foresee a repeat of trouble such as the Falangist militia massacre of hundreds of Palestinians in the Sabra and Shatila refugee camps near Beirut after Israel invaded Lebanon in 1982, Mr. Hoefliger said.



EMOTIONAL REUNION: Jeremy Levin (centre), the kidnapped U.S. journalist who said he escaped from 11 months of captivity in Lebanon, is embraced by his wife Lucille and other family members upon arrival at Frankfurt's Rhein-Main air base Friday night (AP wirephoto)

Iraq orders amnesty for military deserters

BAHGDAD (R) — Iraq's ruling Revolutionary Command Council (RCC) has ordered a general amnesty for all military deserters, the Defence Ministry newspaper Al Qadisiya reported Saturday.

The decree, covering all crimes of desertion, absence without leave or escape from military service, is valid for 30 days for people living in Iraq and 60 days for those abroad, the newspaper said.

It follows another decree issued on Wednesday ordering a civilian amnesty for all Iraqi fugitives from justice. This included members of banned political parties and groups who had "committed activities against the homeland and the revolution."

The new decree also covers members of the security police and the para-military Popular Army, Al Qadisiya said. Popular Army members are volunteers but governed by military law once

American journalist reunited with family

FRANKFURT, West Germany (R) — American journalist Jeremy Levin was reunited here with his wife and family after spending nearly a year in isolated captivity in Lebanon.

Levin flew in shortly before midnight to the U.S. Rhein-Main Air Force Base from Damascus aboard a private jet. He held his wife Lucille in a tight embrace for several minutes on the tarmac in sub-zero temperatures amid applause from U.S. diplomatic and military personnel and before a large crowd of journalists and photographers.

He was then escorted to waiting cars nearby, waving to reporters in a jubilant mood. Asked how he felt, he shouted: "Fantastic."

Northern Cyprus to open new airport

GECITKALE, Northern Cyprus (R) — A new international airport is to open soon in Northern Cyprus, but the planes using it will have only one destination.

The Turkish Cypriot state in the north of the divided island says the three kilometre airstrip at Gecitkale will serve as its main air link with the outside world. But the breakaway state is not recognised internationally, so all flights must either end or stop off in Turkey.

The Turkish sector has just 180,000 people and not even a plane or a helicopter of its own. But administrators decided it needed a third airport, the ninth of the Mediterranean island.

Cyprus was divided into an ethnic Turkish north and Greek south when troops from mainland Turkey invaded in 1974. Turkish Cypriot leader Rauf Denktash declared the north independent in November 1983.

Greek Cypriot officials say Gecitkale — Lefkoniko in Greek — is being funded by the U.S. for use by the Rapid Deployment Force set up to protect Western interests in the Gulf.

The Turkish Cypriot administration vehemently denies the charge, arguing that the north's main airfield of Ercan needs repair and is too close for safety to the "green line" dividing the two communities.

The airport, 50 kilometres north east of Nicosia, is scheduled

to open within two months. Local officials put the final cost at six billion lira (\$13 million).

A 3,180-metre runway, a terminal building, fire service facilities, a technical block and a nine-storey control tower have already been completed.

In addition to Ercan and a landing strip at Pinarbasi (Krasia in Greek) in the north, there are six airports in the south, including the main international airport at Larnaca and three run by Britain's Royal Air Force.

Ercan, a former military airfield renamed after a Turkish pilot killed in action, was expanded for civilians after the Turkish invasion. It now handles up to 10 flights a week by Turkish Airlines or Cyprus Turkish Airlines, which charters planes from the Turkish carrier. The occasional "pirate" cargo plane picks up the north's grape crop for the European market.

These flights will transfer to Gecitkale and repairs will begin at Ercan. Turkish Cypriot authorities say Ercan, just seven kilometres from the Green Line, is a security risk.

In certain weather conditions planes landing there cannot avoid Greek Cypriot airspace, they say while Ercan would be in easy artillery range of the south in the event of another conflict. Gecitkale is 20 kilometres from the border.

Damaged tanker docks at UAE

ABU DHABI (R) — The Greek-owned oil tanker Fellowship L, hit in an Iraqi missile attack last Tuesday, has docked at Fujairah in the United Arab Emirates, shipping sources said Saturday. They said initial reports indicated that damage was slight

and the ship was expected to leave soon. The Liberian-registered 264,108-deadweight tonne tanker was hit in a tank near the bow after it left Iran's main oil export terminal at Kharg Island in the northern Gulf with a cargo of 230,000 tonnes of crude oil.

Israeli general disputes SLA desertion reports

SIDON, Lebanon (R) — More than half the men in the main pro-Israeli militia in South Lebanon have deserted, according to security sources, but the Israeli regional commander has disputed the report.

Israel last year built up the "South Lebanon Army" (SLA) under former Lebanese Brigadier General Antoine Lahd, and planned to give it a high role in preventing cross-border commando attacks after the Israeli withdrawal.

Gen. Lahd said last year he planned to increase the SLA to 6,000 men, but security sources here said it had shrunk from 2,500 to 1,200, largely due to desertions since Israel's decision on Jan. 14 to leave.

The commander of Israeli forces in South Lebanon, General Ori Orr, told Israel's Yedioth Ahronoth newspaper that 25 SLA troops had disappeared in Sidon but otherwise desertions were "a lot fewer than we anticipated."

Israeli troops withdrew from the Sidon area Saturday. Gen. Orr said his troops would start pulling back from their front lines facing Syrian troops in eastern Lebanon

N. African summit stalled by conflict

RABAT, Morocco (AP) — Vigorous efforts by Tunisia's ailing 81-year-old President Habib Bourguiba to convene a summit meeting of all the North African Arab leaders are stalled by the 10-year-old conflict over the Western Sahara, a senior Moroccan official has said.

The official, who commented on persistent rumours of an imminent North African summit meeting on condition that he not be identified, said Mr. Bourguiba and his government were continuing their efforts, but immediate agreement seemed unlikely.

The countries concerned are Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Libya and Mauritania. Two of them, Morocco and Algeria, have had no relations and often seemed on the verge of conflict during the past 10 years because of Algeria's support for the Polisario Front independence movement in the Moroccan-annexed former Spanish Sahara.

By Alan Philips
Reuter

TUNIS — The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) is quietly evolving a more flexible stance on Middle East peace under its "joint action formula."

Under the formula, announced on Monday, diplomats in Tunis say, the PLO will accept a "staged" evolution towards a stance more acceptable to Israel and the Americans.

Mr. Abed Rabbo said in Damascus that the dissident DFLP would take all necessary measures to foil the Jordan-PLO accord.

There are apparently no major concessions and diplomats here do not see any immediate breakthrough. But judging from leaks and hints from its officials the PLO seems to have moved towards accepting a step-by-step approach, they say.

"Previously, the PLO wanted to put all its cards on the table before beginning peace talks," commented a Middle East expert at a Western embassy. "Now they are ready to keep some of their cards hidden before they start."

According to Jordanian Prime Minister Ahmad Obaidat, the PLO has agreed to attend a future international peace conference as part of a joint Jordanian-Palestinian team.

While this does not mean that the PLO has abandoned claims to its right, recognised by all Arab states, to represent the Palestinians, the PLO had previously insisted on sending a separate delegation.

NEWS ANALYSIS

The PLO has also toned down its demand for an independent state for Palestinians living under Israeli occupation, the diplomats say. A state remains their objective, but is apparently no longer a precondition for starting peace talks.

The Jordanian prime minister in his comments here Thursday did not mention an independent state and the complex formula apparently envisages less than full sovereignty.

The PLO accepted in 1983 the idea of confederation between Jordan and a Palestinian state, but

only as an option after the achievement of full sovereignty.

A third sign of flexibility, diplomats say, is that the document implicitly recognises the United Nations Security Council Resolution 242 of November 1967 by accepting all U.N. resolutions on the Middle East as a whole.

Israel and the U.S. have long pressed the PLO to accept this resolution as a precondition for talks but the commando movement rejects it as it treats Palestinians only as refugees.

Egypt, Washington's closest Arab ally, has welcomed the accord and it is expected to figure prominently during President Hosni Mubarak's visit to Washington next month.

Mr. Arafat's dominant Fateh commando group, the backbone of the PLO, is due to discuss the accord within the next few days. These talks will be followed by a rare meeting of the 60-member PLO Central Council in Algiers.

It remains to be seen if Mr. Arafat can persuade his colleagues to accept the document. Pro-Syrian hardliners split in 1983 largely over an earlier attempt by Mr. Arafat to work out a joint platform with Jordan.

PLO "Foreign Minister" Farouk Kaddoumi, in a statement, repeated traditional PLO demands for an independent state and the sole right to represent the Palestinians, saying: "Any accord which contradicts these principles cannot be ratified."

Another influential PLO figure, Salah Khalaf (Abu Iyad), described the accord as a draft and said they had called an urgent meeting of the PLO Executive Committee.

Some diplomats believe their statements are designed to reassure Palestinians that no major changes in policy are in the offing, and that they will in the end support Mr. Arafat.

A PLO official said: "We have seen 'battles of statements' in the PLO before and the problems are always resolved."

Mr. Arafat will have to convince colleagues that it is worth pursuing joint action with Jordan in the face of hostility from Syria. Mr. Arafat's sworn enemy, which is pledged to torpedo any separate solution to the Middle East problem.

TV & RADIO

JORDAN TELEVISION	BBC WORLD SERVICE
639, 720, 1413 KHz	639, 720, 1413 KHz
MAIN CHANNEL	06:00 Newsweek 06:30 Out On The Floor 06:50 World News 07:00 Newsweek 07:30 World News 07:45 Letter from America 08:00 Newsweek 08:30 Jazz for the Asking 09:00 World News 09:15 Newsweek 09:30 From Our Own Correspondent 09:50 Letter from London 10:00 World News 10:15 Newsweek 10:30 World News 10:45 Newsweek 11:00 World News 11:15 Newsweek 11:30 World News 11:45 Newsweek 12:00 World News 12:15 Newsweek 12:30 World News 12:45 Newsweek 13:00 World News 13:15 Newsweek 13:30 World News 13:45 Newsweek 14:00 World News 14:15 Newsweek 14:30 World News 14:45 Newsweek 15:00 World News 15:15 Newsweek 15:30 World News 15:45 Newsweek 16:00 World News 16:15 Newsweek 16:30 World News 16:45 Newsweek 17:00 World News 17:15 Newsweek 17:30 World News 17:45 Newsweek 18:00 World News 18:15 Newsweek 18:30 World News 18:45 Newsweek 19:00 World News 19:15 Newsweek 19:30 World News 19:45 Newsweek 20:00 World News 20:15 Newsweek 20:30 World News 20:45 Newsweek 21:00 World News 21:15 Newsweek 21:30 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Canadian official meets Hikmat, Masri for talks on Middle East issues

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Culture, Tourism and Antiquities and Acting Minister of Information Taher Hikmat Saturday received the visiting Canadian Minister of Foreign Affairs Director of Middle Eastern Affairs Robert Elliott, accompanied by the Canadian Ambassador to Jordan, Keith MacLellan.

During the meeting, discussions centred on Middle East issues in light of new developments as well as bilateral relations.

The Canadian official was later received by Minister of Foreign Affairs Taher Al Masri.

Also Saturday, Minister of Trade and Industry Jawad Al Anani also received the Canadian official and discussed bilateral trade relations.

Mr. Elliott arrived in Amman Friday on a three-day visit in which he will meet a number of senior officials.

ARA draws up plan for developing marine wealth

AQABA (Petra) — The Aqaba Regional Authority (ARA) has drawn up a comprehensive plan in cooperation with the Ministry of Agriculture and the Maritime Sciences Station (MSS) aimed at developing marine wealth and providing statistics about fisheries.

ARA President Mohammad Said Abu Nowar said Saturday.

Mr. Abu Nowar was speaking at the inauguration of a seminar on fisheries statistics, organised by the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) in cooperation with the Ministry of Agriculture and the Maritime Sciences Station.

Also speaking at the seminar was Dr. Dureid Mahasneh, director of the Maritime Sciences Station, who outlined the importance of holding such a seminar in the field of providing the technical and qualified cadres and expertise.

Taking part in the seminar are 14 specialists representing seven Arab countries overlooking the Red Sea. The seminar is within the framework of a project which aims to develop fisheries in the Red Sea and Aden Gulf and sponsored by the FAO.

The seminar, the third of its kind held at the MSS, is geared to find applied statistics in fisheries and arriving at a unified Arab statistical system.

Romanian Muslim delegation concludes five-day visit

AMMAN (Petra) — A three-man Muslim Romanian delegation Saturday left for Kuwait at the end of a five-day visit to Jordan, during which they met with Speaker of the Lower House of Parliament Akel Al Fayez, Chief of Islamic Justice Mohammad Mheilan, Minister of Awaqaf and Islamic Affairs Abed Khalaf Daoudieh and Minister of Youth Hani Khasawneh.

The delegation also visited a number of scientific, cultural, religious and medical centres and inspected their activities and works.

The delegation was headed by Sheikh Fajal Salah, the general mufti of Muslims in Romania and included Imam Nourallah Badri, deputy general mufti and the deputy minister of religions in Romania.

U.N. experts to assess, review agricultural development plans

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan's agricultural development plans will be discussed between Jordanian officials and a joint team from the United Nations World Food Programme, the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) and the International Labour Organisation (ILO), due to arrive here on April 16.

Bronze Age cemetery excavations shed light on enigmatic era of Jordan's past

By Rami G. Khouri
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The excavation of an extensive, 4,000-year-old Early Bronze Age cemetery in the Jordan Valley is helping to shed more light on a period of ancient Jordanian history that is still an enigma to modern scholars.

Tiwalash-Sharqi is a large Early Bronze Age IV cemetery that was used for some 150 years, around 2200 B.C. This is a particularly problematic period in Jordanian/Palestinian archaeology, when most of the walled towns of the Early Bronze Age III and IV periods are suddenly abandoned, there seem to be few permanently settled villages, and the people are engaged more in a rural and agricultural, or nomadic or semi-nomadic way of life.

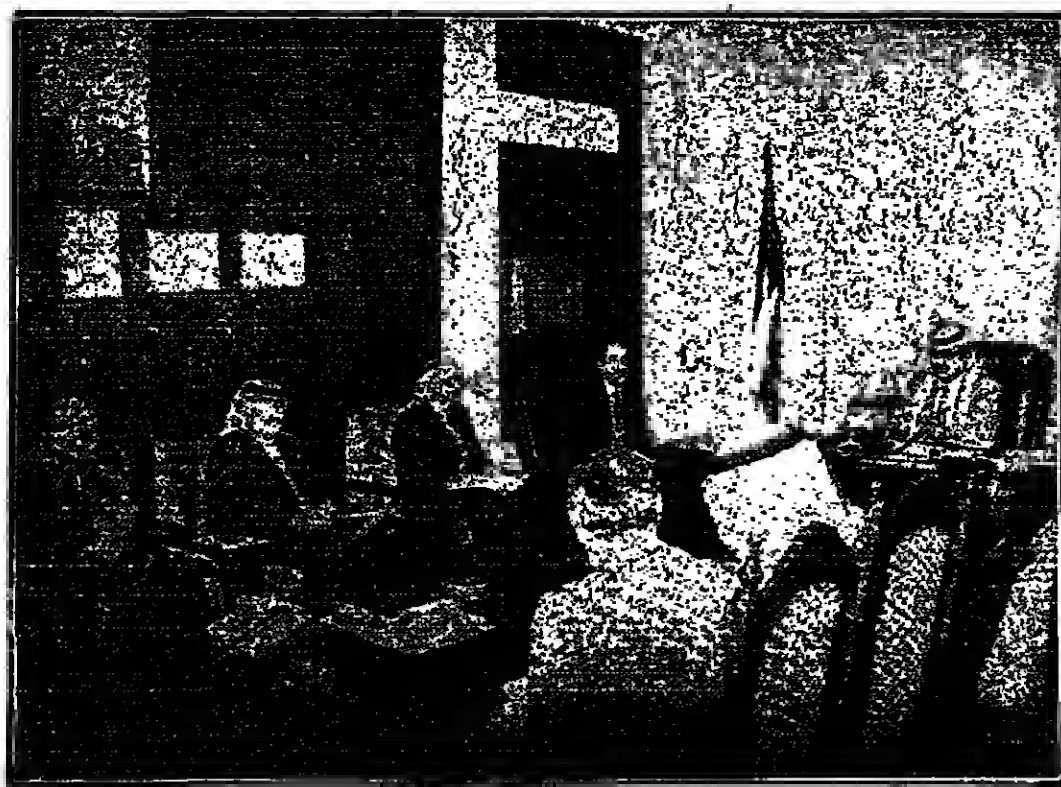
The cemetery is being excavated under the direction of Dr. Jonathan Tubb, head of the Levant collection at the British Museum, after being initially investigated soon after its discovery by Dr. Sven Helms. It is located in non-agricultural lands alongside a bend in the Zarqa River, forming an arc around the south end of the twin settlement sites of Tell Umm Hammad Sharqi and Gharbi. It is just over four kilometres as the crow flies to the north-east of the confluence of the Zarqa and Jordan Rivers.

Bulldozer's discovery

The cemetery was discovered



Typical contents of an Early Bronze Age IV burial at Tiwalash-Sharqi, including a human skeleton, pottery and beads.



Minister of Communications Mohammad Addoub Al Zaben (right) Saturday chairs a meeting of the ministry's planning committee during which plans for an express mail service and its implementation were discussed (Petra photo)

YWCA holds regional workshop for women in small-scale industries

By Rana Sabbagh
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — "Our aim is to upgrade the current status of women, to encourage them to join in with socio-economic development and to train and rehabilitate women who could later work in the cities, towns and rural areas," Mrs. Salwa Shweihat, president of the Young Women's Christian Association YWCA in Jordan said Saturday.

Mrs. Shweihat, who was speaking at the opening of a ten-day regional workshop on "Management of Small Scale Industries", added that the only way a woman can become independent is through complete economic self-sufficiency. She said that the YWCA hopes such workshops could be incorporated in all YWCA regional branches so that needy people could benefit from such constructive workshops.

Mrs. Laila Diab, general secretary of the YWCA Jordan, outlined the current projects, the organisation in Jordan. She said: "We work with the aim of raising the standard of people, especially

women, whether socially, economically, or morally." The YWCA has five branches in Jordan: Amman, Husn, Madaba, Jerusalem and Jericho. Each of these five branches has a vocational training centre, a hostel and a kindergarten. Added to these activities, the YWCA has five training centres for refugee women in five refugee camps in Jordan.

Mrs. Diab said that the YWCA in Jordan has selected a higher committee for youth activities and that the committee represents a member from each of the five branches. Such a committee aims to prepare for youth activities on the special occasion of 1985, the United Nations International Year of Youth.

YWCA of Jordan, in collaboration with the World YWCA and the Industrial Development Bank, have prepared for this workshop. Two consultants from the World YWCA, who are specialists in issues pertaining to women affairs will be lecturing and supervising the workshop. Mrs. Maureen Berlin, of Canadian nationality and who is currently living

in Bangladesh, is a resource person who has been working for the last five years in voluntary work concerned with training courses for underprivileged women in Bangladesh. She is also the originator of the only self-supporting project for women in Bangladesh. Mrs. Berlin will be instructing 23 participants from YWCA branches in Egypt, Lebanon, Jordan and the West Bank on management, designing, quality control and stock control. Mrs. Berlin is a consultant on women's affairs for the Swedish, Danish and Norwegian embassies in Bangladesh.

Another consultant from the World YWCA is Miss Tapati Das from Bangladesh who has been a consultant on management of small-scale industries for the Middle East YWCA association programmes for the past 11 years. Miss Das has also assisted staff of YWCA in Asia, Africa, the Pacific and Oceania for feasibility studies and programmes to promote social development through project which aim to upgrade the level of women. She will instruct on coding, pricing and costing of products, marketing and bookkeeping.

Improved postal system to be operational soon

Communications Ministry to offer express mail service

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Communications has decided to introduce an express mail service in Jordan for the first time, Minister of Communications Mohammad Addoub Al Zaben said Saturday.

Dr. Zaben, who chaired a meeting of the ministry's planning committee, added that the express mail service will be in force within a short period of time. He said that the service will focus on transporting all postal material through a distinguished service capable of sending all postal material to all countries which agree on introducing this service within 24 hours following the date of dispatch, in accordance with an order of priorities set out for this purpose.

Speaking to a Jordanian News Agency, Petra, reporter, Dr. Zaben said: "Once the ministry puts this system into operation, it

will achieve a large qualitative leap in this field of service." He added that by applying this excellent service Jordan will join 60 countries within the Universal Postal Union, whose member states are 166, and which offer this service.

Dr. Zaben also instructed all communication department directors to speed up the preparation of arrangements pertaining to the implementation of this service.

During Saturday's meeting, Dr. Zaben discussed with the department directors the transport of Jordan's air mail and reconsideration of routes for tra-

nsporting air mail to various parts of the world. The aim behind this is to reduce the period of time required for delivering the mail and so that it becomes consistent with the Royal Jordanian Airline. Air, flights, being the only carrier of Jordanian mail.

The planning committee discussed other issues pertaining to the new headquarters of the ministry and the central post office, which will include sufficient areas for all automatic postal operations. The ministry is intending to introduce during the coming weeks.

Concluding its meetings, the planning committee approved the organisational charter of the post offices as prepared by the supervision and guidance department.

The meeting was attended by Ministry of Communications Under-Secretary Mansour Ibn Turil.

Season's rains approach annual norm

By Sa'ad G. Hattar
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A deep depression and a polar cold front which affected the Kingdom in the last three days is moving eastwards to north Iraq, therefore the weather will be partly cloudy and the temperature is expected to rise gradually. Meteorology Department Director General Ali Abanda said Saturday.

Dr. Abanda told the Jordan Times that the amount of rain fall and snow within the last few days was very high and encouraging. He said the total amount of rainfall since the first drop of the season is almost approaching the normal annual standard all over the Kingdom, except in the south east. In Amman rainfall registered 95 per cent of the annual average, the University of Jordan 105 per cent, Irbid 110 per cent, Madaba 144 per cent, Ajloun 97 per cent, the north Jordan Valley 98 per cent, Karak 96 per cent, Shobak 71 per cent, Mafrak 119 per cent, H 4 129 per cent and Ma'an and Aqaba less than 25 per cent.

The Meteorology Department announced the rainfall amount for the past 48 hours as follows in millimetres: Amman civil airport

51.2, Amman Municipality 75, Jabal Al Hussein, 79, Wadi Al Seer 96, the University of Jordan 97, Suweileh 80, N'our 41, Mawagar 26.5, Al Geza 23, Russeifeh 29.5, Zarqa 21.3, Petrol Refinery 18.3, Perea 64, Sukhneh 21, Wadi Dulal 23.6, Madaba 88, Manga 62, Salt 105, Ajloun 75.5, Fuheis 60, Baq'a 59.9, Rmcmeen 47, Um Jozeh 120, Deir Alla 33.2, Subehi 66, Era 55.5, Khaldieh 23.2, Irbid 44.3, Al Husn 38, Hoshia 14, Al Ramtha 19, Al Turra 16.5, Duneiba 35.5, Samur 52, Ras Muneef 66.8, Ajloun 94, Jarash 61, Koura 17, North Shouneh 17.5, Um Rasas 17, Karak 55 with snow, Rabbeh 76 with snow, Daser 70 with snow, Tafleh 40.2 with snow, Ghor Al Safi 11.1, Jarraneh 20, Rashadieh 23 with snow, Ma'an nil, Ma'an Airport 4.6, Shobak 35.5 with snow and Aqaba 0.8.

The quantity of water stored at King Talal reservoir until Saturday morning scaled 32.5 million cubic metres while its full capacity reaches to 55 million cubic metres.

As for Zeqlab reservoir, the stored water quantity registered three million cubic metres of its full capacity of four million cubic metres.

Amman Governor Turki Al Hindawi Saturday called the public to promptly call emergency operation offices which function round the clock in case of emergencies. Mr. Hindawi said that there were no reported casualties due to the rough weather conditions, however, financial losses occurred due to several car accidents.

The Police Department at Karak Governorate Saturday announced that all roads are passable except some rough roads in Al Mazar and Al'ub. The sources said that the department's personnel have embarked on facilitating traffic circulation and removing snow. Karak Electricity Director Hamed Al Nabubeh said that all electric cables are functioning and that the emergency equipment is ready to face any malfunctioning situation.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Labour team checks on work permits

AMMAN (Petra) — An inspection team from the Amman Labour Department is currently carrying out an inspection tour of all companies and institutions employing foreign workers to ensure that these workers have legal work permits. The director of the department, Mr. Mohammad Hadidi, said that institutions violating foreign worker regulations were given warnings to rectify those violations within two weeks.

Government approves ALO delegation

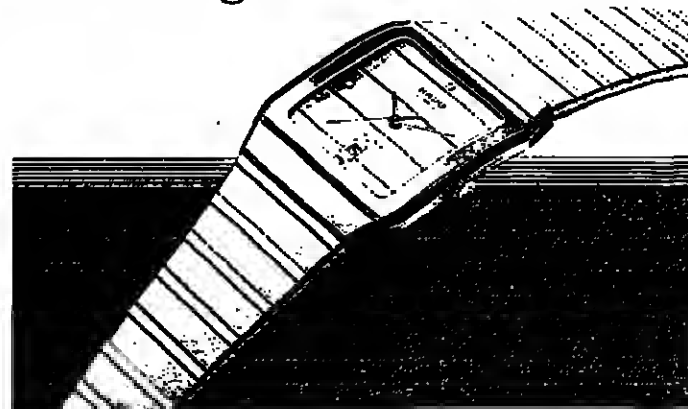
AMMAN (Petra) — The government has approved the formation of the Jordanian delegation to the meetings of the Arab Labour Organisation (ALO), due to be held in the Iraqi capital of Baghdad during the first week of March. Jordan's delegation will be led by Minister of Labour and Social Development Tayseer Abdul Jabbar and includes Ministry of Labour Under-Secretary Saleh Al Khasawneh and representatives of both the public and private sectors. Jordan earlier nominated Dr. Khasawneh for the post of the director general of the ALO.

Nabulsi leaves for cooperative meeting

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan Cooperative Organisation (JCO) Director General Hassan Nabulsi left for Al Sharqi Friday to take part in an annual meeting of the Arab Cooperatives Federation Executive Council. In a pre-departure statement, Mr. Nabulsi said that the meeting will discuss the federation's financial and administrative activities in the past year and a plan for the current year. The council is expected to agree that the Jordanian Cooperative Institute is to serve as a temporary training centre in cooperatives until a special institute has been built. Mr. Nabulsi said.

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lages of Jordan/Palestine seem to be abandoned, and the people of the area reverted to a more rural, or semi-nomadic, lifestyle.

He suggests this was largely due to economic changes, rather than to an invasion of foreign people. The cessation of the important trade with Egypt may have brought about the collapse of towns, and the people moved back to the countryside in smaller groups, to practice subsistence dryland farming and livestocking.

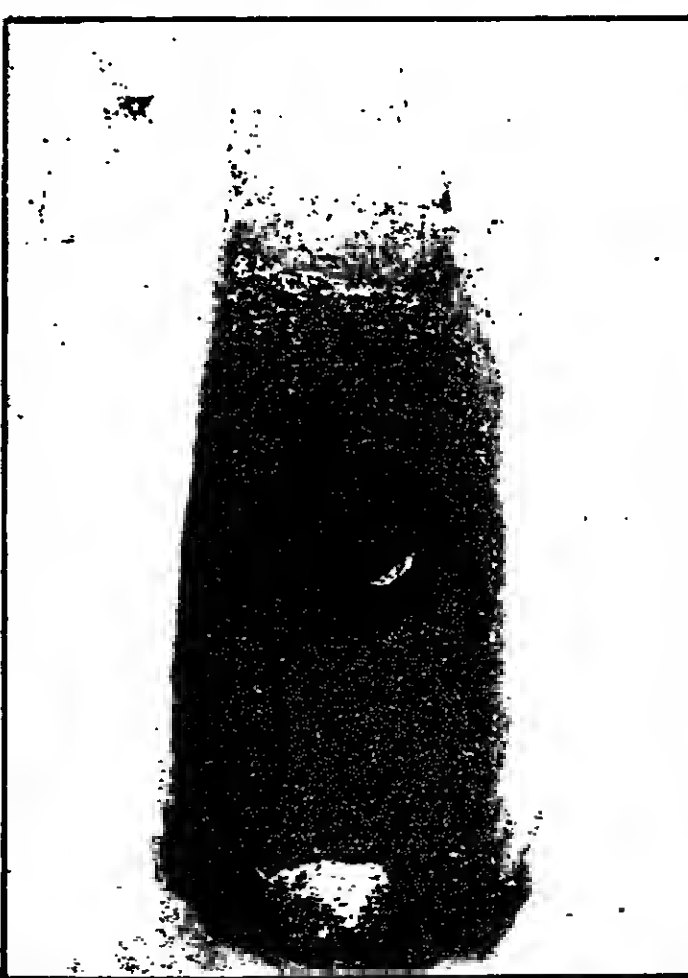
There are some signs of this change in lifestyle in the different pottery and tomb types in the Early Bronze IV period. Heavy, functional Early Bronze IV pottery replaces the finer wares that were used in the Early Bronze III cities, and single-burial Early Bronze IV tombs replace the Early Bronze III tombs that usually had multiple, successive burials in the same tomb. Dr. Tubb suggests that the rural, perhaps semi-nomadic, Early Bronze IV people only dug a tomb when they needed it to bury a dead person, while in the urbanised Early Bronze III era people living in permanent cities repeatedly re-used the same large, family tombs to bury their dead.

A particularly important find at the Tiwalash-Sharqi cemetery consisted of two stone-built graves, totally different in concept from the shaft tombs. This kind of grave was built by first digging an almost rectangular pit in the ground, surrounding it by four courses of stones, and covering it with three large stone slabs.

Such tombs have been found frequently in Syria, Palestine, Iraq and Jordan, though they have always been associated with the Middle Bronze Age IIA period (around 2000-1750 BC). In other places, these tombs have also been associated with a social "elite", or socially privileged people. At some Palestinian and Iraqi sites, they have been dubbed "warrior graves", because of the weapons found inside them.

Tombs, pottery

At Tiwalash-Sharqi, however, the pottery inside these stone-built tombs was classic Early Bronze IV ware, which proves that this type of grave was used in Jordan at least 200 years earlier than its documented presence in other parts of the Middle East. The contents of these graves were rather ordinary funerary pottery and objects that could have come from any of the other shaft tombs, indicating that there is no evidence



View down into the shaft of a typical Early Bronze IV tomb showing the blocking stone in the foreground that once closed off the entrance into the tomb.

for a "social elite" using these graves.

Dr. Tubb thinks the presence of the two stone-built tombs amidst the shaft tombs may indicate an intrusion into the society of a small group of people who brought with them their own burial tradition and grave type. It is also possible that this kind of tomb was first developed in the Jordan Valley, and gradually spread to other parts of the Middle East.

Another intriguing theory suggests that the stone-built tombs may be those of early "refugees" who had to move to the valley during the Early Bronze IV period, later returning to their former towns or cities at the start of the Middle Bronze Age.

The discovery of these "early" stone-built tombs at Tiwalash-Sharqi supports those who believe there was a smooth continuity of culture and social traditions between the Early Bronze IV and

Middle Bronze Ages. It is noteworthy that only Early Bronze IVB pottery was found in the tombs, with no evidence yet of earlier (Early Bronze III) or later (Early Bronze IVC) wares.

The Tiwalash-Sharqi cemetery shows some differentiation in tomb types, those in the south-east part of the cemetery being bigger and richer than the north-east tombs. This could reflect differences in the social and economic well-being of the people who buried their dead here, particularly if the large cemetery was used by different villages, hamlets or semi-nomadic people living throughout the central valley area.

The excavated Early Bronze IV pottery is generally well made and fired. It looks to Dr. Tubb like the locally produced ware of people in small villages or scattered hamlets, who lived off the land by farming and livestocking.



Their good, our good

THE AMERICAN-SOVIET talks on Middle Eastern issues scheduled to start in Vienna Tuesday strike us as among the important developments of this diplomatic season. Opinions on the matter have varied widely, from those who claim that the Americans and Soviets will impose a settlement on the Arabs and the Israelis, to those who claim that there is little new in this kind of "damage control" exercise. The truth probably lies somewhere in between.

We are obliged to remember that the United States called a world-wide nuclear alert of its forces during the October 1973 Arab-Israeli war — reminding us that there is good reason for the Americans and Soviets to exchange notes on this sort of development in the interest of averting an accidental nuclear war. We disagree with those in the Arab World who say that the Arabs' only hope for peace lies through geolecting at the altar of Washington's good intentions. We also disagree with those who claim that only through a close military relationship with the Soviet Union can the Arabs hope to match Israel's military superiority. In both cases, such arguments deny the Arabs the capacity to be self-reliant and activist, and instead, call for others to come and solve our problems for us. The fact that we may not have grasped fully is that the Arab-Israeli conflict comes rather low on the list of priorities of the two superpowers, just as it came low among the priorities of the Israeli people during last year's national election.

For the Americans and Soviets to discuss the Middle East within the context of generally improving relations, symbolised by renewed strategic arms talks, can only benefit those in the Middle East who are working towards a peaceful, negotiated settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict. But this is only one of many elements that have to come together to push forward the prospects for peace in the Middle East, and we should remember that when the Americans and Soviets talk, they talk first and foremost about their own interests as superpowers. It is our job to promote a coincidence between what is good for the superpowers, and what is good for the people of the Middle East.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Blackmailing the Vatican

ISRAEL AND the world Zionism are preparing through a special Jewish-American committee to extend an invitation to Pope John Paul to visit Israel. The committee claims it wants to enlist the Pope's help in persuading the Arabs to recognise the Zionist state, because this recognition it says, will establish peace in the Middle East. But this is totally contradictory to what Israel really wants from the visit. In the first place, it hopes to win moral support for its policy from the head of the Catholic Church. Through this invitation, Israel wants to deceive the world into believing that it's the Arabs and not Israel who do not want peace, and, therefore, they do not support such a visit. This is stark-naked blackmail to be exercised on the Pope and the world, and a sort of propaganda campaign aimed at improving Israel's image in the world.

We are certain that the Pope will not be taken in by such deception or succumb to such blackmail, because he realised that Israel, which occupies Arab land, continues to deny the rights of others, and is going ahead with plans to evict the Arabs from Palestine and to build settlements on their land.

Above all, the Pope realises that Israel has recurrently committed atrocities in the Holy Land and desecrated Islamic and Christian shrines. Therefore, the only conclusion will be for the Pope to refuse such blackmail and such a visit from Israel, which has proved to be a great enemy of peace.

Al Dustour: Getting out of their Israeli wits

AS THE Israeli Army is preparing to pull out from its present positions in South Lebanon, its troops are showing more and more hysterical actions and bad behaviour, which displays clearly that they have lost their senses. The troops lately clashed with U.N. forces and with a number of American television correspondents, and the clashes caused the Israeli-backed militia to disintegrate. The Israelis have launched several criminal attacks on the civilians in South Lebanon: they fired on unarmed people, demolished homes and detained tens of people for questioning. This reflects the extent of strain the troops are subjected to and their constant fear of the attacks of the resistance which had inflicted so many casualties on the enemy.

No one in Israel can deny the negative effects which the invasion of Lebanon has had on Israel economically, militarily and socially. The leaders of Israel are sure to learn a big lesson from that invasion and will have to think deep before embarking on a future similar adventure. But what is important to note is the beneficial effects which the success of the Lebanese resistance had left on the inhabitants of the occupied Arab territories.

The success of the resistance in Lebanon has been instrumental in encouraging the Arab people under Israeli rule in occupied Palestine to launch new and daring attacks on the enemy. Perhaps the Arabs at large will also benefit from this situation and escalate their efforts to confront their common Israeli enemy.

Sawt Al Shaab: A right step

THE ARAB League has dispatched a delegation to the Far East to improve Arab relations with countries there and win support for the Arab causes. The visit to Sri Lanka assumes a special importance, since that country had earlier announced its intention of allowing Israel to open an office to take care of Israeli interests, and it also said several Israeli Army officers will be employed to give training to the army and security forces in the country. Such moves would enable Israel to open new markets in Asia against the interests of the Arab Nation.

It is quite immature to predict the outcome of the delegation's tour, but it is a step in the right direction and one that presents the Arab League as an institution that responds positively to events and works for safeguarding Arab interests. One more thing about the Arab League, which proves this new stand, is the recent efforts it has been exerting to convene an Arab summit conference which can tackle various issues.

SUNDAY'S ECONOMIC PULSE

Monetary indicators take a plunge

By Fahed Fanek

MONEY SUPPLY (M1) remained stable during 1984, ending at JD 878.4 million against JD 869.4 million a year ago — a growth of only one per cent. This is Jordan's lowest annual rate of money-supply growth on record since the establishment of the Central Bank twenty years ago.

Both components of the money-supply were stagnant in 1984: Issued currency in circulation on the one hand grew by 2.6 per cent, the lowest in twelve years; demand deposits on the other hand dropped by 1.6 per cent, an unusual phenomenon which during 20 years occurred only in 1967 and 1970.

Factors affecting money-supply were more dynamic and revealing: On the positive side, i.e. factors contributing to the increase in money-supply, we

find the continued commercial banking expansion. Credit extended to the private sector reflected a net increase of JD 161 million, and to the public sector around JD 40 million (net of increase in public deposits). Other miscellaneous positive items contributed a net amount of JD 69 million, which make a total of JD 270 million.

These new funds were suppressed by two major factors: (1) An increase of time deposits (quasi-money) to the extent of JD 133.5 million, the second largest growth in time deposits and saving accounts in 20 years;

(2) A decrease in foreign assets (net of non-resident accounts) of JD 144.5 million, which is the worst annual drop in foreign exchange net position on record.

It is evident that though

money-supply remained almost the same, yet factors affecting money-supply swung to the extremes in opposite directions which may be a manifestation of the adjustments taking place in the economic and monetary behaviour at grassroot level.

Gold and foreign exchange reserves at the end of 1984 stood at JD 608.7 million, a drop of JD 76 million. This is the second time it happens in 12 years, and the largest in its scale.

According to the Central Bank monthly statistical bulletin, Jordan used its gold tranche position in the International Monetary Fund (IMF) during 1984 which is an automatic facility available to IMF members to compensate reduction of foreign exchange

earnings.

Gold and foreign exchange reserves as defined by the Central Bank of Jordan do not include non-transferable foreign currencies and claims on other countries under bilateral payment arrangements (total JD 134.1 million), but the reserves are not reduced by non-resident accounts and off-shore deposits (total JD 315.6 million). The so-called non-resident accounts actually include residents' deposits in foreign currencies with Jordanian banks, which further complicates the picture and renders the arrival at the net foreign reserves difficult.

Despite the plunge in the main monetary indicators, yet commercial banks (and the Housing Bank) managed to grow at 14.6 per cent during

1984, which is a handsome growth in the circumstances.

Banks' deposits also grew at 14.6 per cent to reach JD 1.6 billion. Private deposits in local currency increased at 13 per cent and in foreign currencies at 28 per cent.

Complaints about lack of liquidity and banking system tightness are obviously unfounded. Outstanding commercial credit increased in 1984 by 15 per cent to reach JD 1185 million. Every sector in the economy managed to obtain more financing. The only exception was tourism, hotels and restaurants' sector, which decreased by 7.5 per cent to stand at JD 23.7 million, not a substantial amount any way.

The lion's share of new banking facilities extended in 1984

was in favour of mining where credit grew at 33.6 per cent, municipalities and public corporations — 30 per cent, industry — 20.2 per cent, construction — 19.4 per cent, transportation — 15.8 per cent.

For a change, the least lucky was the general commerce and trade sector which obtained seven per cent extra facilities.

In general, the monetary indicators took a plunge in 1984, yet economic activities were able to obtain reasonable financing. Banks were able to grow at a relatively high rate. The only area where caution could not be overemphasised is the external economy, especially foreign reserves. More banking expansion in extending credit is translated into larger deficit in foreign reserves.

No deals on Mideast in U.S.-Soviet talks in Vienna

By William Scally

Reuter

WASHINGTON — The Reagan administration has made clear there will be no deals on the Arab-Israeli conflict during talks with the Soviet Union on the Middle East next week.

The long-standing policy of containing Moscow's influence in the region while seeking to promote negotiations between Israel and moderate Arabs remains unchanged, officials said.

The two-day talks in Vienna next Tuesday "should not be seen as negotiations and we do not anticipate any agreements," State Department spokesman Bernard Kalb said Wednesday.

"They are merely an exchange of views. They do not represent any change in the U.S. position regarding issues affecting the region, nor do we expect them to result in changes in Soviet positions," he said.

Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy will represent the U.S. and Foreign Ministry Near East Division chief Vladimir

Polykov will represent the Soviet Union.

The talks, which come three weeks before U.S.-Soviet negotiations on arms control reopen in Geneva, reflect a broadening of the superpower dialogue begun last year.

Mr. Reagan has said he hoped the agreement to resume arms talks marked the beginning of a new dialogue between Washington and Moscow.

He called for "policy level" consultations on regional problems in a United Nations speech last September. The aim would be to help avoid miscalculations and reduce the potential risk of U.S.-Soviet confrontation.

The State Department said topics expected to be discussed in Vienna included the Arab-Israeli conflict, Afghanistan, the Iran-Iraq war and southern Lebanon.

"While our discussions will address regional problems, the exchange will be primarily within the context of bilateral U.S.-Soviet relations," according to the department.



The talks are intended to contribute to mutual understanding of the problems.

The U.S. and Israel oppose proposals for an international conference on the Arab-Israeli dispute, to include the Soviet Union. In 1973, the superpowers pre-

sided over such a conference in Geneva.

The major Soviet role in the Middle East is as arms supplier to Syria, a leading hardliner in the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Syria has become more isolated recently as the U.S. resumed rel-

ations with Iraq, while Jordan and Egypt re-established ties and the Palestine Liberation Organisation's moderate wing headed by Yasser Arafat mended a break with Jordan.

U.S. officials, however, have

said the door remains open to Syria to join the peace process.

Although the U.S. and the Soviet Union enter the Vienna talks with vastly different views, they do agree on the need to end the Iran-Iraq war.

Effects of Israeli pullout from S. Lebanon are far-reaching

H. Reid

Associated Press

BEIRUT — The impact in the Middle East of Israel's impending troop pullout from South Lebanon will depend largely on two factors: How much territory it actually relinquishes and what group comes forward to take its place.

If the Israelis stand by public pledges to withdraw all of their estimated 20,000 troops from Lebanon, the move would possibly end strident opposition to the U.S.-brokered agreement of May 17, 1983, in which Israel would have gained economic and security concessions in return for leaving.

The Syrians would be in a position to claim that they had shown the Arab World that Israel can be pressured into abandoning occupied Arab territory through force and that the negotiated peace which Egypt signed in 1979 to gain the return for the Sinai Peninsula is not the only avenue open to the Arabs.

But an Israeli withdrawal would likely improve the relationship with Egypt that the peace treaty formally established. A complete withdrawal would remove one of the major conditions President Hosni Mubarak set for returning Egypt's ambassador to Israel and accepting an offer by Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres for a summit.

The Egyptian ambassador was withdrawn in September 1982 following the Israeli invasion of Lebanon and the massacre of Pal-

estian civilians in Beirut camps under Israeli military control.

An improvement in the frosty relations between Egypt and Israel since 1982 would give a substantial boost to prospects for reviving peace talks between Israel and moderate Arabs.

In Washington, Egyptian Foreign Minister Esmat Abdel Meguid said an Israeli departure would help revive the peace process but warned that a "cosmetic" withdrawal — in which Israel maintained some troops on the Lebanese side of the border — would be insufficient.

In Cairo, Mr. Mubarak told reporters this week that Israel should withdraw all the way to its northern border "because Israel is not a weak country and can defend itself against any aggressor."

Whether Israel will completely clear out of Lebanon any time soon remains uncertain. Israeli Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin has announced a first stage withdrawal from the Sidon area to be completed by Feb. 18. But Israel has not announced a timetable for removing its troops from the eastern Bekaa, where they face Syrian forces, or from areas adjacent to the Israeli-Lebanese border.

Peres has announced plans to bring all his soldiers home from Lebanon by summer. But the timetable for subsequent pullbacks will no doubt depend in large measure on the second factor: who will hold sway in the areas Israel's army is relinquishing.

Lebanon wants its own fractured army to take over in the

South and has about 8,000 to 12,000 troops earmarked to move into the areas the Israelis leave.

The Shi'ite Amal Movement, which dominates West Beirut, has several thousand fighters in South Lebanon, along with various other Nasserite, Communist and local defence groups.

In a panel discussion last month in Jerusalem, Clinton Bailey, a Lebanon specialist at the Hebrew University, said mounting attacks by Shi'ite Muslims on Israeli troops also could delay a complete withdrawal indefinitely.

Israel has helped create, arm and train the 2,000-man South Lebanon Army (SLA) militia, which it had hoped would be able to control the area near the Israeli border. Almost no one in South Lebanon believes the SLA capable of its mission.

Meanwhile, Beirut, where the PLO was headquartered from 1970 until 1982, is awash with rumour. One landed with the vacation-bound president, referred to as "framework" agreements as "a milestone" but also termed it "one step in a long road."

Before, there had never been a Palestinian commitment to the peaceful resolution of the problem. Now there is, said the senior official, who did not permit use of his name.

The official avoided placing the acceptance directly within the "framework" of U.N. Security Council Resolution 242, which the administration has singled out as an essential foundation for Arab-Israeli talks — The Washington Post.

'Some progress made,' says Reagan

PRESIDENT REAGAN, said

Wednesday that "it seems as if some progress has been made" in the agreement of Jordan and Palestine Liberation Organisation, and others in his administration were increasingly hopeful about the latest Mideast diplomatic development.

Mr. Reagan's comment came in a brief exchange with reporters as he boarded his helicopter for a five-day California vacation. Several hours later, the White House released a communique on Mr. Reagan's meetings Monday and Tuesday with Saudi Arabia's King Fahd, in which the president "renewed his pledge" to support his 1982 peace plan "in direct negotiations involving the parties most concerned."

"We're being optimistic about it," Mr. Reagan told reporters in reference to the Jordan-PLO "framework for common action" that was concluded Monday in Amman.

A senior administration official who briefed reporters at Point Mugu, Calif., where Air Force One landed with the vacation-bound president, referred to the "framework" agreements as "a milestone" but also termed it "one step in a long road."

Before, there had never been a Palestinian commitment to the peaceful resolution of the problem. Now there is, said the senior official, who did not permit use of his name.

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'Stability first'

WASHINGTON — President Reagan and King Fahd of Saudi Arabia issued a communique Wednesday in which they agreed that a stable peace in the Middle East must provide security "for all states in the area and for the exercise of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people."

But the communique underscored the continuing differences between them on how to achieve those goals. It said, for instance, that King Fahd had told the president that a "just basis for negotiations leading to a comprehensive peace" was found in the eight-point plan that he had proposed and which was accepted by Arab leaders at Fez, Morocco, on Sept. 9, 1982.

That Fez plan called for the complete withdrawal by Israel from all lands captured in the 1967 war, including East Jerusalem, the dismantling of all Jewish settlements on the West Bank and Gaza Strip, the establishment of a Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital and a Security Council guarantee for peace among all states in the region.

Of those points, the United States has in the past expressed interest primarily in the expressed willingness of the Arabs to have "peace" with all states in the region, an implicit acceptance of Israel's right to exist in the borders it held before the 1967 war.

In the communique, Mr. Reagan said he stood by his own Middle East initiative of Sept. 1, 1982, which called for direct negotiations between a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation and Israel — The New York Times.

SLA crumbling

ISRAEL'S PLAN for "securing its northern border" has suffered a defeat with mass defections from the Israeli-trained Lebanese militia in South Lebanon.

An Israeli government spokesman said, however, that the defections from the South Lebanon Army (SLA) would not delay Israel's planned withdrawal from South Lebanon. The first phase of the pullout, from the area around Sidon, is due to be completed by Feb. 18.

Most of the troops who have abandoned the SLA are Shi'ite Muslims, said Maj. Gen. Uri Orr, head of Israel's Northern Command. Those who remain, an Israeli military commander was quoted as saying on Israel Radio, are mostly Christians from the areas just above "Israel's northern border." According to the commander, one-third of SLA soldiers have defected.

It was reported Wednesday that some 1,500 Lebanese Army troops are now massed at the Awali River, the northern limit of Israel's occupation. The Lebanese have insisted that, contrary to Israeli predictions, order will be maintained in Sidon after the Israeli leave.

Israeli military sources denies reports that Israeli troops would withdraw before the announced date. But Lebanese resistance fighters have sharply escalated attacks recently on the Israelis and the SLA, sparking speculation here that Israel wanted to avoid providing the attackers with a chance to make a symbolic — and possibly bloody — strike against them on the pullout date — Christian Science Monitor.

Kuwaitis to elect the only parliament in Gulf Arab states

By Rory Channing

Reuter

KUWAIT — Kuwait, the only Gulf Arab country with an elected parliament, holds a poll for its national assembly next week, but no women and only a select group of men will take part.

While state affairs in other countries in the region are still largely in the hands of traditional ruling families, Kuwait has had an elected national assembly for all but five of the 24 years since it gained independence from Britain in 1961.

The assembly can influence the rule of the Kuwaiti Emir, Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, by initiating legislation and altering

government bills. The Emir retains the right to dissolve parliament.

Members show little hesitancy in criticising or opposing government measures and, in occasionally fierce debate, do not spare government ministers belonging to the Emir's family.

Some 56,848 men, 3.5 per cent of Kuwait's 1.7 million people, are eligible to vote on Wednesday to choose deputies for the next four-year term of the 50-member assembly.

After a massive influx in the 1970s of foreign labour needed to convert surplus oil revenues into modernisation projects, Kuwaitis now make up only 40 per cent of the population.

Yet even among this minority, only a very privileged group of Kuwaiti males over the age of 21 years may vote.

These are "first class" citizens — those who can trace their origins in the state back to 1920 and before — and a small group of other nationals who have completed 15 years residence and gained citizenship under stringent criteria.

With half of its male nationals still under the age of 20, Kuwait is a young country. It is also very rich, with one of the world's highest per capita incomes — estimated at \$14,000 in 1984.

Slightly over half Kuwaiti nationals are women, and there has been a strong drive by members of

both sexes in recent years to secure female electoral rights.

This has forced heated debates in the outgoing national assembly, but the demands were easily blocked in a society which still clings to traditional views on the role of women.

Kuwait does not allow political parties. Instead, candidates — who number over 240 this year — are expected to contest seats on the strength of their personality and individual merit.

But tribal and religious ties inevitably play a role, and help divide the assembly into identifiable groupings of opinion.

The previous assembly was dominated by conservatives mos-

tly supportive of mainstream state policy. Diplomats say they would be surprised if the new assembly were much different.

"Still, the government has learned at some cost not to underestimate the assembly, and its determination to jealously guard its power," says one Western diplomat.

Less than two years ago, the government was forced to drop plans for a constitutional reform that would have granted the Emir emergency powers during assembly recess, including the right to declare martial law.

The present Emir revived the assembly in 1981 after his predecessor had suspended it in 1976,

a year before he died.

Sheikh Sabah Al-Salem Al-Sabah took that move on grounds, among other things, that the assembly had been delaying legislation. Growing tension among assembly members and residents over the Lebanese civil war was apparently also a factor, diplomats say.

A handful of Islamic fundamentalists gained seats in 1981 and managed, against ministerial opposition, to push through laws extending a ban on imports of alcohol to include diplomats.

But, as a fringe minority in parliament, their ability to stamp their mark on legislation has been severely limited.

سكراحتال

Burkina Faso: Land redistribution to counter impact of creeping drought

President Thomas Sankara has abolished private land ownership in Burkina Faso. It remains unclear whether this will allow the drought-stricken nation to feed itself, or will speed the spiral of rural deterioration.

By Nigel Twose

OUAGADOUGOU, Burkina Faso — During the harvest late last year, revolutionary president Thomas Sankara announced the abolition of private land ownership. He denied ideological motivation, but said he did it so that this hungry country could grow more food.

That pronouncement, and plans to devote much more money to agriculture, could herald a revolution much more significant than the coup which brought Captain Sankara to power in 1983.

Burkina Faso (formerly Upper Volta) suffers recurring drought and famine in its northern regions. While 90 per cent of its 6.7 million people live in the countryside, less than 2 per cent of the annual budget is spent on agriculture. President Sankara announced that he will devote 40 per cent of the budget to the farming sector.

Most of the country's agricultural funds go to cotton, which gets much of the best land, virtually all the fertiliser and pesticides, and all the government attention. From 1960 to 1984, cotton production increased 25-

fold. Food production has stagnated. The country harvests as much millet and sorghum per person today as it did in 1960, the year it gained independence.

With cotton prices falling or unsteady over the past decade, the crop has made neither the nation nor its people wealthy. Almost one-third of the rural people are employed in cotton production, earning meagre wages: per capita income is among the world's lowest, at \$210 per annum.

Apparently trying to enlist peasant support, Mr. Sankara has decreed that land will be leased by the state to those who have a "genuine social need", the state ensuring that each household is given its own plot of land.

Even more popular is the abolition of the rural tax scheme, which required every peasant farmer to pay a small tax each year just before harvest time, when money was in shortest supply. The revenue raised amounted to \$1.75 million. The measure impressed farmers, though it alters their prospects little.

Also, women now officially have the same rights as men to

lease and use land. As in the rest of Africa, women do the bulk of Burkina Faso's farm work, but have been excluded from agricultural advice, training and decision-making. But what the proclamation will mean in practice in a traditionally male dominated society remains open to question.

President Sankara also decreed that rural people must now organise themselves into peasant cooperatives of 25-30 families. These are not state farms of the sort which have failed in other parts of Africa, but units meant to do "modernisation work" not profitable for any single family, such as soil and water conservation, irrigation, road building and tree planting.

Cooperatives will be allocated their own land. Local savings bank will be established to provide credit for cooperative ventures. But state funds will not go to family farms.

If cooperatives work, it will mark a revolutionary change. Today almost all food is produced with hand tools on small family plots. The nation has no tradition of cooperatives.

In the past, most farmers have leased land from rich landholders and felt too insecure in their tenure to improve this land. Leasing

from the government could make peasant farmers feel more secure, and the cooperative unit could give villages the muscle to plant trees and build erosion-halting terraces.

But Mr. Sankara's reforms do not hint at channelling more resources towards food production, nor do they mention export crop production. The nation's foreign debt is about \$350 million, small by Latin American standards, but nevertheless requiring this nation to come up with \$7 million each year to service it. Mr. Sankara may hesitate to take anything away from the crop which provides 41 per cent of the nation's exports.

Thus if the state goes through with plans to channel some funds toward infant, untested cooperatives and none at all towards individual farmers, the "reforms" could speed the cycle of land degradation. Farmers will have to continue bringing more marginal land under production, continue having big families to provide labour, and continue overworking fragile soil, with resulting erosion and desertification.

The reforms do not address the fact that the army and state bureaucracy swallow nearly half of Burkina Faso's annual Gross National Product. (The government



Louisi villagers, Burkina Faso: Women of Burkina Faso now have the same legal rights to land as men — just one of the reforms introduced by the new order (Earthscan photo)

spends \$7 per year on every citizen, over \$8,000 on every soldier.)

Nor is it clear whether they will actually bring about a redistribution of land. Will the large landholders really be forced to re-

linquish any land, though formally they now lease their land from the government rather than own it?

If more productive land cannot be found for the peasant farmers, the countryside will continue to deteriorate and the cities and

towns to grow at the rate of 6 per cent a year, one of the highest rates in West Africa. There are few jobs in the cities.

Mr. Sankara, once dubbed "Captain Courageous" in the international press, is clearly moving

one step at a time. Success will depend on his ability to turn his step-by-step reforms into a package which allows the 90 per cent of his people who live on the land to make a living from the land — Earthscan feature.

'Man and the Biosphere' has wide support

UNESCO's "Man and the Biosphere" gets high marks for science and conservation, even from the United States, which has pulled out of UNESCO. It had even brought agreement between the United States and the Soviet Union.

By Nigel Cross

PARIS — With a disaster-ridden year gone, a rare note of international harmony has been struck at a conference in Paris — at UNESCO of all places. Delegates from East and West, North and South were unanimous in their support for UNESCO's "Man and the Biosphere" (MAB) programme.

Though it sounds vague and even sexist, the man and the Biosphere programme amounts to a practical network of projects which aims to match conservation with "sustainable" development, according to delegates at the Eighth MAB council meeting in December. MAB's brief is to assist and encourage international cooperation in a wide range of environmental issues.

The U.S. delegate had praised the programme for its high scientific standards, and pledged increased U.S. funding of its work — despite his nation's negative attitude towards UNESCO. The Soviet delegate was also warm in his support. Such concord is not the

least of MAB's achievements.

It has set up 226 "biosphere reserves" in 62 countries. These areas are meant to conserve genetic resources — both plant and animal — and where possible to restore, or at least partially reclaim, adjacent areas. Though they include some traditional national parks, many of the reserves strike a balance between human needs and wildlife needs. A further 17 reserves were adopted at the December meeting, including eight in the USSR and one in the United States.

To date, MAB has initiated over 1,000 field projects in more than 100 countries. Thousands of scientists, social scientists and anthropologists have collaborated on the projects, which seek practical ways of improving the relationship between people and their environment, whether in cities, rural areas, coastlines, or on the fringes of the desert.

The council recommended a plan for research into the recovery of degraded land systems in the Sahel region of western Africa. As the food crisis in the Sahel con-

tinues, the need for research into the causes of land degradation, and the development of strategies for land rehabilitation, becomes ever more urgent.

MAB already has a number of projects in the arid and semi-arid lands of Latin America, the Middle East and sub-Saharan Africa. The research results are fed into the United Nations' plan to combat desertification, where they may, if anyone is listening, have some practical effect.

One such four-year pilot scheme has just finished investigating the role of the nomad herders of Northern Kenya. It relied not only on the obvious specialists such as ecologists, veterinarians and geographers, but also on local anthropologists, in an attempt to find out why the herders moved and bought or sold animals when they did. Such work could help conserve rangelands right across Africa.

The project encouraged the Kenyan government to establish an Arid-Lands Research Station, the first of its kind. It has also drawn up a detailed management plan, which if implemented, will establish a controlled grazing system which allows for rotation and recuperation of rangelands. The

project, funded by the U.N. Environment programme and West Germany, is typical of MAB's ability to attract outside funds from both governments and other multilateral agencies.

MAB's strength lies in the fact that it is a truly international effort with a wide membership base. National Committees all over the world fund and monitor its activities at national, regional and international levels. Thus it is possible for the United States to contribute an increase in its funding of MAB through a higher grant to the U.S. MAB Committee, while simultaneously withdrawing from UNESCO.

However, U.S. withdrawal had cut UNESCO's 1985 financing by 25 per cent, and this threat worried the MAB council meeting. There was unanimous agreement that the council should ask UNESCO's director-general to spare the entire MAB programme. If there have to be cuts, they should fall on overheads, and not be applied to regional projects.

The Canadian delegate endorsed the view that MAB should be exempt from cuts and asked that there should be no freezing of posts. The West Germans, who are generous funders of MAB,

also praised UNESCO's activities in science, and singled out MAB as a particularly valuable science programme.

However, one of MAB's problems has been in publicising its achievements, and disseminating the results of over 10,000 research studies in conservation and environment. France has now offered to set up a documentation service on behalf of MAB in Paris. Canada said it would sponsor a conference on environmental education in a developing nation.

Sceptics may argue that such gatherings are so much hot air, and that MAB research reports merely consume resources and generate paper. But these meetings have galvanised national, and even local, environmentalists into participating in a world-wide conservation network.

The British Royal Society had cited such collaborative efforts as the principal reason why Britain should remain within UNESCO. Without UNESCO's science programmes, the Royal Society argues, science in developing countries would suffer, and partisan rivalries could replace genuine and constructive international cooperation — Earthscan feature.



Brazilian rainforest. The 'Man and the Biosphere' programme has set up 226 biosphere reserves in 62 countries (Earthscan photo)

British TV puppets mock Thatcher, Reagan, royal family

By Michael Wise

Reuter

LONDON — President Reagan has trouble keeping his brain inside his head, Queen Elizabeth maintains a tiara in place with a headscarf, Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher stands alongside cabinet colleagues in a men's urinal.

"Spitting Image" uses grotesque puppet caricatures with schoolboy humour, uneven political wit and what some consider less majestic to draw millions of television viewers and break new ground in Britain's tradition of satirising the mighty.

"There hasn't been a programme like this on television before," warily observes a spokesman for the Independent Broadcasting Authority (IBA), a governmental watchdog body.

Two days after Princess Margaret went into hospital last month for a then undisclosed lung operation, her puppet likeness was on the air, tipily suggesting "Johnny Walker" and other liquor brands as the name for the newest royal baby.

Though under fire from a small number of viewers, "Spitting Image" producer John Lloyd maintains the programme does not overstep the bounds of good taste, although he concedes there have been lapses.

"We're a great deal less offensive than the conversation in an average pub," he told Reuters. "But people react differently because it's not coming from God-like television."

Charged by parliament with overseeing standards of "decency" on television and radio programmes not produced by the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC), the IBA keeps a close eye on "Spitting Image", now in its second season.

Last year it ordered cut a scene showing 91-year-old former Prime Minister Harold Macmillan, now the Earl of Stockton, spilling soup on himself.

Some politicians have assailed "Spitting Image" as cruel. Member of parliament Tim Brinton, who chairs the Conservative Party media committee, says he finds it particularly unfair to the Royal Family because by tradition they

cannot answer back.

Perhaps more damaging for a programme which aims to provide satirical entertainment, he does not find it funny. "Most of their scripts are terrible," he says.

Mr. Brinton's assessment may be due in part to the portrayal of Mrs. Thatcher as steely and lacking compassion for Britons facing economic hardship.

One sketch showed the prime minister asleep beside her husband Denis. A constant ticking sound awakens Mrs. Thatcher, who narrowly escaped death last October when Irish Republican Army (IRA) guerrillas bombed the hotel where she was staying.

Although Denis informs her the ticking comes from his heart pacemaker, Mrs. Thatcher — wearing pyjamas made from the Union Jack — shrilly demands that the noise stop. Mr. Thatcher complies, dies, and the "Iron Lady" drifts contentedly back to sleep.

A spokesman at 10 Downing Street said the prime minister never watches "Spitting Image."

But two days after the scene was broadcast, Mrs. Thatcher made a

rare public declaration of love for her husband. "Life is marvellous and I adore him," she said in a radio interview.

Having spent much of the programme's first season searching under a White House bed for his misplaced brain, President Reagan is portrayed as a dangerous incompetent. Scriptwriters rely heavily on allusions to his Hollywood past and allege an inability to distinguish between film and reality.

Mr. Lloyd says U.S. television networks have expressed interest in the programme, although he adds that "Spitting Image" might not travel well since a large number of those caricatured are not known outside Britain.

The life-size puppets are the creations of two former Cambridge Art College students, Peter Fluck and Roger Law. They began working together in 1975 on figures then mostly used to illustrate magazine articles.

Mr. Lloyd says they have made about 250 puppets and that more are in the works for future programmes.

"The Fluck and Law treatment is never very kind," Mr. Lloyd says, explaining that there has been some outrage over the duo's depiction of the infant princes William and Henry.

The only major member of the Royal Family who has not yet made an appearance is the 84-year-old Queen Mother. Independent Central Television, which produces the programme, is apparently reluctant to cock a snook at Britain's most beloved granny.

"You've got to have some relation to what people's perception is," Mr. Lloyd says, while promising the Queen Mother will join other members of her family when an "appropriate" joke has been found. "We've got to be very careful."

Meanwhile, IBA Spokesman James Conway says the actual number of complaints received about the programme is minimal. "I think it's fairly clear to most people what sort of programme it is, and those who like that sort of humour and enjoy it watch it, and those who don't choose not to."

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Cresta Run celebrates centenary of mad dash on ice

By Donald Nordberg

Reuter

ST. MORITZ, Switzerland — Whatever their nationalities, they are all eccentric "Englishmen" when they ride the Cresta Run.

For 100 years the members of the thoroughly British St. Moritz Tobogganing Club have been risking life and limb for the dubious pleasure of sliding down 1,212.25 metres of ice with only the vaguest semblance of control.

They give themselves prizes for success and failure. They admit they are crazy and want no cure. And they politely resist all efforts to turn their lunacy into a real world sport.

For a fortnight this month — not two weeks, that's not British

enough — they met in St. Moritz to celebrate the centenary of the Cresta Run.

In the early days, the riders were the fastest men on earth. From the top, past the junction, through the bends and over the Cresta leap to the finish, they reach speeds as high as 140 kilometres per hour.

Their sleds, virtually unchanged in design since 1907, are simple sheets of steel with two runners and a sliding, padded seat. No mechanical steering or brakes are allowed.

Seven men have died and countless others have been injured attempting the Cresta Run. Most who try it once leave aching and never return.

Others, like Lincolnshire farmer Tony Emerson, get hooked. "It's a drug," he says. Mr. Emerson won the Boff's Handicap Cup this year, his first victory in a major competition after 12 years of riding the Cresta.

Julian Board, honorary treasurer of the club and a mild-mannered London accountant off the slope, said the membership rolls — some 950 names long, only half of them British — remain a closely guarded secret.

"But it contains lots of princes, archdukes and knights."

One commoner, Jack Glafielder, a St. Moritz merchant of tea and caviar and one of the club's many Swiss members, was an active rider for 12 seasons before

retiring from the slope eight years ago. He entered this year's centenary race, and won.

Sandy Gall, a television newscaster in Britain and a veteran member of the club, joined the seniors' cup competition and didn't. But as his toboggan turned nearly sideways in the treacherous shuttlecock bend, he proved himself among the top contenders for this year's Drunken Crab award.

The Cresta Run was opened in 1885, a development on the Tobogganing that a group of English lovelids undertook as part of their medical treatment in Swiss clinics.

Twice the Cresta became an Olympic sport — in 1928 and 1948, when the winter games were played in St. Moritz. The med-

alists were, quite naturally, club members.

Bids by other countries to build something similar have not been encouraged. A Canadian group once approached the St. Moritz Tobogganing Club for assistance and was politely ignored. "We don't want to lose our exclusivity," says Board.

Mr. Emerson tells the story a different way: "Anyone rich enough to want to build a run would rather come to St. Moritz."

Christian Branschen, a 35-year-old housebuilder, took over the task of building the run each year from his father. At a cost of about \$100,000, he moulds snow and water into the Cresta Run.

Liverpool, York draw

LONDON (R) — European Champions Liverpool found their awesome reputation counted for nothing when they were held to a 1-1 draw by third division York City in the fifth round of the English Football Association (F.A.) Cup Saturday.

But York, assembled for the grand total of £4,000 (£4,400), refused to concede defeat and earned a merited draw when Spragg forced home the equaliser during a goalmouth melee.

Everton, bidding to follow Tottenham and Arsenal and become the third club to achieve the League and Cup double this century, also found the going tough against Telford, only the fourth semi-professional side to reach the fifth round.

But their hopes evaporated when Peter Reid broke the dead-

lock in the 67th minute. Irish international Kevin Sheedy added the second with a 72nd minute penalty and midfielder Trevor Steven raised the tally to three in the dying seconds.

Like Telford, highland league side Inverness Thistle's romantic run to the fourth round of the Scottish Cup came to an abrupt end.

Thistle's 16-year-old goalkeeper — the appropriately named Les Fridge — was beaten six times as Glasgow Celtic refused to bow to sentiment.

Scottish international midfielder Paul McStay grabbed a hat-trick and Maurice Johnston, Frank McGarvey and Murdoch Macleod scored a goal apiece.

But Glasgow Rangers, Scottish Cup winners on 24 occasions, suffered a shock 1-0 home reverse by Dundee, who also beat them at the same stage last season.

An eighth minute goal by Bobby Brown was enough to take Dundee into the last eight along with near neighbours Dundee United, 3-0 away winners at second division Jucen of the South. Aberdeen continued their bid to become the first club in history to lift the cup four times in succession with a 3-1 win at Raith Rovers, also of division two.

An 85th minute goal by defender Rick Shragia earned York, fourth round conquerors of Arsenal, a midweek replay at Anfield.

Newcomers line up for players final

DELRAY BEACH, Florida (R) — Scott Davis and Tim Mayotte, a couple of unseeded players who were teammates in university four years ago, became surprise finalists in the \$1.8 million International Players Tennis Championships Friday night.

Davis eliminated Czechoslovakia's Tomas Smid, No. 11 seed and the last surviving seeded player, Scott won 7-6, 6-4, 4-6, 6-3 in a match interrupted twice by rain. He took the first set tiebreaker 7-3.

Mayotte won the last six points in a first set 7-5, tiebreaker and took a 5-0 lead in the fourth set to beat unseeded Jan Gunnarsson of Sweden 7-6, 6-2, 4-6, 6-1 in the afternoon.

A former world junior champion who is ranked 27th in the world, Davis rallied from 2-5 in the first set. He erased a set point along the way and won the last four points in the tiebreaker.

"The key was the first set tiebreaker," Smid said. "If I won it, it would have been different. But I had a 5-2 lead and a set point. I should have played more to his forehand. He didn't miss anything with his backhand."

Rain caused a 52-minute interruption in the first set with Smid ahead 4-2.

"I had trouble seeing the ball and also being a little nervous," Davis said. "It was my first match here at night. But after the break, I saw the ball better. I became more aggressive and he seemed to take something off his serve."

Smid had the set point in the 12-point ninth game but lost it when he missed a crosscourt volley. Davis won the game en route to the tiebreaker in which he won the last four points for the set.

A 14-minute rain interruption in the second set started when Smid, down 4-5, 0-30, walked off

because of wet surface. Upon resuming play, Davis won two points, the second double fault from Smid, to go up 2-0 in sets.

Footfalls and a warning for ball abuse did not stop Smid from winning the third set with aggressive play, but Davis won the first eight points of the fourth set to get control.

Smid had one more chance, breaking Davis' service in the third game but lost his own again in the next game as Davis pumped service returns for winners.

Sunday's final bears a first prize of \$112,500 which exceeds what either player has ever earned in one check.

Earlier, Mayotte, who ranks 45th in world tennis, rebounded from a 1-5 deficit in his first set tiebreaker and produced sufficiently powerful tennis to defeat Gunnarsson and reach Sunday's final.

Moses found innocent

LOS ANGELES (R) — U.S. Olympic gold medal hurdler Edwin Moses hugged his wife to the cheers of spectators when he was found not guilty Friday night of soliciting sex from a policewoman.

The tall, conservatively-dressed Moses 29, left the courtroom with his German wife, Myrella, without making any comment after shaking hands with his lawyer, Edward Medvene, and his mother.

The jury deliberated for two hours and 20 minutes before reaching its verdict after a five-day municipal court trial.

Policewoman Susan Gonzales, who had acted as a decoy on a Hollywood street corner, said the athlete offered her \$100 for acts of sexual intercourse and oral copulation.

Moses, who won gold medals in the 1976 and 1984 Olympic Games for the 400 metre intermediate hurdles, said he had pulled over in his Mercedes car, bearing the registration plate Olympyn, because he believed she had recognised him as an athlete. "I was kind of caught by surprise. I had no intention of buying sex," Moses said when giving evidence.

He said Gonzales, a dark-haired woman in her mid-20s, had propositioned him, asking him,

"do you want to have fun?" Moses, who has won 109 consecutive races, also said he drove away instead of stopping his car, rounded a corner as she had suggested.

If convicted, Moses could have been sentenced "to up to six months in jail and fined \$1,000."

Also at stake were contracts worth a million dollars under which Moses sponsors sports shoes and other products. The contracts contain clauses casting on Moses to behave himself in a way that benefits the products.

Judge David Horwitz ordered silence when spectators clapped, and cheered after the jury foreman announced "not guilty."

A member of the jury of six men and six women, Albert Mareau, a 53-year-old aircraft worker, said jurors voted 10 to one, with one abstention, in favour of Moses on the first ballot and 12 to nil on the second and final ballot.

In his summing up, the prosecutor, deputy City Attorney Michael Gaurino, declared "nothing about this damn case makes me happy."

"I would like to believe Moses. I would love to believe Moses, but believing him would be running away from the facts at gold medal speed," he said.

W. Germany's Kluge claims world cyclo-cross title

MUNICH, West Germany (R) — Mike Kluge of West Germany ended Czechoslovakia's almost total domination in amateur cyclo-cross with a shock win to take the world title Saturday.

The 22-year-old dental technician, who has never won a major international race before, moved out in front on the third of seven 3.4-km laps of a snow-covered Olympia Park to win with a 26-second lead over Switzerland's Schumacher.

Third was another Swiss, Bruno d'Arise, 40 seconds behind unemployed West Berliner Kluge, who gave the home crowd something extra to celebrate on carnival weekend.

Czechoslovakia had provided the world champion for the past four years, winning seven of the 12 available medals, but they were never really in the hunt Saturday though Peter Kloucek finished fourth and race favourite Peter Hrk sixth.

Kluge took advantage of two Schumacher falls on the third lap of the slippery course. Though the Swiss brought him down as well the first time, Kluge was up straightaway and when Schumacher fell again the West German opened up a big gap.

He had a 10-second lead at the end of that lap and by the end of the fifth he had stretched it to 35 seconds to leave the rest of the field fighting for the other medals.

Kluge is only the second West German to win the title. Ironically, Klaus-Peter Thaler, the other rider to achieve the honour, threw Kluge out of the road race team for last year's Los Angeles Olympics when he was national cycling champion.

"Everything went tremendously well for me right from the start," Kluge said. "Though I had to push myself a bit at the end because I didn't know exactly what was going on behind me."

Schumacher, 21, who was junior world champion three years ago and is the only rider to have also taken the junior road race world title, led Switzerland to win the unofficial team race from Czechoslovakia and the Netherlands.

Though the Czechoslovak dis-appointed they were without reigning world champion Radomir Simunek, who missed the race with a serious knee injury.

Sunday sees the professional and junior world title races.

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Oman's imports rise 10%

MUSCAT (R) — Oman's import bill rose 10.3 per cent to 949 million riyals (\$2.74 billion) last year, from 861 million riyals (\$2.49 billion) in 1983, the Central Bank of Oman's quarterly bulletin said.

The increase, to which food and manufactured goods made the largest contribution, was in spite of the strength of the Omani riyal, which is tied to the dollar. The riyal's trade-weighted value reached a record high at the end of 1984, eight per cent above the end of 1983 figure, the bulletin said.

The foreign exchange factor pushed the consumer price index for foodstuffs down to 108.8 from 118.6 in December 1983. The index, based on 1978 equals 100, is the only closely monitored measure of inflation in Oman.

The bulletin, released Saturday, differs from earlier issues in omitting latest statistics for oil production and exports, which provide most of the country's foreign exchange.

Production in the third quarter of 1984 averaged 41,000 barrels a day and industry sources said output probably rose slightly during the last quarter of the year.

Official sources said the central bank was trying to extract the latest monthly oil production figures from the ministry of petroleum and minerals, which had declined to release them.

M-1 money supply rose 7.1 per cent in 1984 to 291 million riyals (\$842 million) while M-2 money supply rose 15.9 per cent to 809 million riyals (\$2.34 billion), the bulletin added.

Most of the M-2 growth was due to a higher level of time deposits with commercial banks, which rose 23 per cent to 371 million riyals (\$1.07 billion).

The same expansion indirectly contributed to a record figure for total assets of commercial banks, which reached 1.22 billion riyals (\$3.52 billion) at end-1984 compared with 1.01 billion (\$2.91 billion) a year earlier.

The bank lending ratio, which in effect measures liquidity, was at a two-year low in the last three months of 1984, however, with loans amounting to only 65 per cent of deposits.

The central bank has been encouraging banks to increase capital so that they can lend more without approaching limits set by the bank.

U.S. intervened in money markets, Baker says

WASHINGTON (R) — U.S. Treasury Secretary James Baker said Friday the United States has entered money markets recently in a bid to slow the dollar's rise, but he added that the administration still doubts the value of intervention. "We have intervened and we have, in fact, done so since I've been here," Mr. Baker told reporters.

Mr. Baker was sworn in as treasury secretary on Feb. 3 after swapping jobs with Mr. Donald Regan, who left the treasury post to become President Reagan's chief of staff.

Mr. Baker refused to discuss the size or frequency of the interventions. He said he thought they had "some effect" despite the dollar's recent rise to new highs.

"I think there was some effect... what I cannot do is sit here and tell you how much it (the dollar) would have risen if we hadn't intervened," he said.

He acknowledged that the administration had moderated the tone of its intervention policy after

last month's meeting of finance ministers from the five largest industrial democracies. But he added the United States still believes intervention is best limited to cases of disorderly markets.

"It is our view that it is best done and more properly done in cases of disorderly markets," Mr. Baker said.

But he noted that the United States had agreed as a result of last month's Group of Five (G-5) meeting "to take a look at when it would be helpful."

He described that as "a rather vague standard," but a senior official who asked not to be named said the recent intervention fell

into that category.

"There's been some intervention in cases not limited to disorderly markets," the official said.

In a brief statement on Jan. 17, the G-5 ministers from Britain, France, West Germany, Japan and the United States said "they reaffirmed their commitment to undertake coordinated intervention in the markets as necessary."

In a remark interpreted as signalling new American willingness to intervene, then Treasury Secretary Mr. Regan said the statement lent "added significance" to the earlier pact.

Asked Friday if the United States had moderated its tone since the G-5 session, Mr. Baker agreed:

"I think that's true and I think that occurred as a result of the G-5 meeting."

But Mr. Baker suggested that the treasury and the Federal Reserve,

which conducts market operations on behalf of the treasury, could do little more than slow the dollar's ascent.

He said the amount of money handled by the markets is so large that "it is very difficult to affect a normal market rise of a currency. You can knock it down a notch, you can slow it down a little bit, but it's difficult to affect in the long-run."

He said progress in reducing U.S. budget deficits and increased vigour on the part of European economies could have a more fundamental effect in slowing the dollar.

Dollar closes sharply lower

Meanwhile, buffeted by rumours, the dollar dropped steadily in New York Friday to close at 3.2551 West German marks, a drop of three pennies from Thursday's 3.2580 finish.

Although trading was thin and the U.S. currency drifted down slowly, the mood was skittish.

"The market is ripe for rumours because the dollar has been trading at record levels," said one dealer. "...And in reaction to those rumours, nobody is going home long (heavily invested) in dollars."

Dealers said there was talk both Japanese and West German authorities were considering imposing short-term currency controls to limit outflow into dollar-denominated assets. Most dealers, though, said the likelihood of such action was slight.

Some analysts noted that the



James Baker

Japanese yen's advance against the dollar was particularly sharp.

"There was a lot of dollar-selling by Japanese investment companies, and you have to wonder why they have become nervous," said one trader. "If they expected a large hit on their foreign exchange exposure, selling dollars forward is the logical thing to do."

But there were less dramatic explanations for the dollar's change in direction as well.

"It's natural to expect a setback after the dollar hit 3.30 marks. The market view is that after almost ten days of solid advance, the dollar is a little topy," said Mr. Jim McGroarty of Discount Corp. of New York. "And that it is time to reflect and take profits."

The British pound sterling ended the day at \$1.1085, up from 1.0960 at the close Thursday, aided by a more stable oil price environment.

The dollar closed at 1.774 Canadian, compared with 1.7543 Thursday night.

Growing number of firms face wind-up in Singapore

SINGAPORE (R) — An average of two companies face winding up action every day as Singapore's economy slows down after several years of boom, according to court figures.

So far this year 80 petitions from creditors to wind up companies have been filed in the high court and businessmen expect the trend to continue.

Court sources said the number of companies going into voluntary liquidation or receivership had also increased, but exact figures were not available.

A total of 445 companies faced winding up action in the high court last year compared with 326 in 1983 and 208 in 1982. Most were closed down.

Business sources told Reuters the increase in closures reflected a

general economic slowdown and sluggish property and stock markets. Many of Singapore's export industries were also hit by severe overseas competition, they said.

An official survey on business expectations published Saturday found that most Singapore industrialists were pessimistic about the business outlook for the first half of this year.

Economic experts and industrialists have forecast that the economy will grow by six per cent this year, down from 8.5 per cent in 1984.

Trade and Industry Minister Richard Hu said last week the property, shipbuilding and ship repairing, offshore oil exploration and electronic industries were the worst hit by the slowdown.

Singapore had also built too

many hotels and shopping centres, he said.

The country's financial daily, Business Times, Saturday blamed hasty action by banks for the growing number of company bankruptcies.

"Businessmen maintain that some of the companies which were closed down by banks during the past two months could have survived the difficult times had the banks not pressed the panic button too hastily," it said.

In an "open letter" to bankers, the daily's editor said: "We warn you now that the steep rise in petitions of winding-up that are initiated by banks will not be forgotten by the business community when the economic cycle swings upwards again, as it must."

U.S. Congress is exploring ways to reduce trade deficit

WASHINGTON (R) — The U.S. Congress, angered and dismayed about the inability of the United States to make progress in shaving its huge and growing trade deficit, is looking at a number of ways to bring about a change.

The Senate Finance Committee, for instance, has even commissioned the Congressional Budget Office to explore the feasibility of a 20 per cent surcharge on imports, a concept that would have been unthinkable even a few months ago.

An aide to Senator John Danforth, a senior member of the committee, however, said the Missouri Republican, who pressed for the study, had "no intention of proposing surcharge legislation at this time."

But he said Mr. Danforth was "open to new and unconventional ideas" to achieve a reduction in the deficit, expected this year to exceed 1984's record \$123.3 billion.

U.S. trade representative Mr. Bill Brock, who met earlier this week in Tokyo with Japanese officials, including Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone, warned that the deficit was producing the strongest protectionist pressures in the United States in over 30 years.

The Danforth aide said the senator felt strongly that sales of U.S. goods in Japan should be increased substantially before the United States agrees to end the so-called voluntary agreement that limits Japanese car exports to the U.S.

The Reagan administration has reached agreement with Japan to open Japanese markets to U.S. goods and continues to press for making the yen more widely used in international commerce, but there has been little impact on the U.S.-Japanese trade imbalance, which hit \$34 billion last year.

Reagan strategists argue that while the U.S. trade deficit is a cause for concern, it represents the impact of the vigorous U.S.

dollar, which continues to soar on foreign exchange markets and makes U.S. goods more expensive and less competitive overseas.

However, Congress is under increasing pressure from American companies which are being hit hard by the export slump.

Inflation remains steady, industrial output grows

Meanwhile, the U.S. economy appears off to a good start this year, according to two government reports released Friday which show inflation remained subdued and industrial production expanded last month.

Wholesale prices were unchanged in January following a 0.2 per cent December increase, the Labour Department said.

Separately, the Federal Reserve Board said industrial production grew 0.4 per cent in January and 5.1 per cent over the past 12 months.

Economists interpreted the lack of movement in wholesale prices as an indication inflation will remain moderate this year, thanks partly to the persistently strong U.S. dollar and an abundance of oil that has depressed prices.

The Reagan administration welcomed the statistics as evidence that the economy is healthy. "The numbers are good news," said White House spokesman Mr.

Marlin Fitzwater.

"The industrial production index out today shows that the third quarter slowdown is clearly over and the economy appears to be on a steady growth path. Steady growth with low inflation at the producer level is welcome news," he said.

Last summer and autumn the U.S. economy slowed abruptly to a sluggish 1.6 per cent annual rate of expansion from a robust 8.6 per cent clip in the first half of 1984.

Since then the economy has found fresh momentum. It grew at a 3.9 per cent pace in the final quarter of last year.

Mr. David Hale, chief economist for Kemper Financial Services in Chicago, said a moderate economic expansion will likely continue throughout this year. His forecast is consistent with what the administration expects.

The Labour Department said wholesale prices showed no change in January because a steep drop in energy prices and a smaller decline in food costs offset an unusually large increase in prices of all other goods, including cars.

The Federal Reserve report said the January rise in industrial production stemmed largely from a strong gain in the auto industry, where cars were assembled at an annual rate of 8.6 million, up from 8.1 million in December.

Taiwan seeks aviation links with other states

TAIPEI (R) — Taiwan wants more aviation agreements with other countries to boost passenger and cargo services. Communications Minister Lien Chan said Saturday. Mr. Lien told a news conference that Taiwan now had air agreements with Hong Kong and 14 countries including the United States, Japan, Singapore and South Africa. "We will break barriers and continue to seek air links with other countries," he said. Mr. Lien declined to say which countries Taiwan had in mind. Industry sources said Taiwan wanted more air links with European countries. It now has agreements only with the Netherlands and Luxembourg in Europe but has been seeking pacts with France and West Germany for years, the sources added.

Iraq, USSR sign oil accord

BAGHDAD (R) — The Soviet Union will help develop one of Iraq's major oilfields under an agreement signed here Saturday, a senior Iraqi oil ministry official said.

He told Reuters the Soviets would provide machinery and technical expertise in raising the production capacity of the field, which he declined to identify.

"The new agreement is an example of mutual cooperation in the oil industry, which is one of the most important fields of fruitful cooperation between the two countries," he said.

Iraqi oil ministry undersecretary Mr. Issam Chalabi and Soviet deputy chairman of the state committee for economic relations Mr. Evgeny Osadchuk signed the accord.

The Soviet Union helped Iraq develop the North Rumaila oilfield in south Iraq in the early 1970s and was the first country to buy Iraqi oil from the gigantic Rumaila oilfields after Iraq nationalised its oil industry in 1972.

Oil exports are about 1.2 million barrels per day, or one third the amount Iraq exported before war erupted in September 1980.

In an interview with Al Thawra newspaper published Saturday Oil Minister Qasem Ahmad Taqi said Iraq's proven reserves stood at 65 billion barrels in 1984.

Iraq, Turkey sign oil pipeline protocol

Meanwhile, Ankara and Baghdad are to sign an agreement next month for a second pipeline to carry Iraqi oil through Turkey to the Mediterranean, Turkish Finance Minister Ahmet Kurbatci Alptemecin said Friday.

Speaking to journalists in Ankara on his return from Baghdad he said five consortia had been given tender documents which had to be completed by April 1. A decision was due by May 1, he said.

The Iraqi News Agency INA said the two sides signed joint minutes on the agreement in Baghdad Thursday night. It said work should start during the second half of this year to be completed within 18 months.

Mr. Alptemecin was quoted by Turkey's semi-official Anatolian News Agency as saying the final agreement would be signed in Ankara at the beginning of March.

THE BETTER HALF. By Harris

JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

YOANG

RAWAY

HALINE

DYNKIL

THE BORE WOULDN'T STOP TALKING UNTIL HIS FRIEND STARTED THIS.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here:

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: TONIC MOURN PULPIT BEACON

Answer: He became man of the hour because he knew how to make this—EVERY MINUTE COUNT

Peanuts

Mutt 'n' Jeff

Andy Capp

THE Daily Crossword by Robert A. Anderson

ACROSS

1 Zucchini

5 Bakery item

9 Elevate

14 Spread

15 Muslim prince

16 Composer

17 Scarlett's spread

18 Bed times

20 — delicto (red-handed)

22 Soak fix

23 Fish sauce

24 Pointed missile

26 President's advisory body

29 It follows printings

30 Under test-tube conditions

34 Busy airport

36 Departed

37 TLC word

38 Hoard

40 Have status

41 Poker hand

43 Gov. Cuomo

44 Wearing clothes

45 Summer stat.

47 — Clegg

48 Edge

49 Every one

51 Irritate

52 Withhold preliminaries

59 .001

61 Villain in "Othello"

62 As before

63 Fr. seaport

64 Open

65 Having long neck rule

66 Stadium take

67 Notorious nobleman

DOWN

1 Fr. entree

2 — Bator

3 Feudal person

4 Marcupai

5 Object of criticism

6 Punish by line

7 Costa —

8 More stylish

9 Aloofness

10 Ring grain

11 Opera prize

12 Sensible

13 Once, once

19 Attitude

21 Nautical term

22 Corral

25 Night prefix

27 Dancer Ted —

28 Rebound

31 Despoils

32 Nerve network

33 — a Grecian Urn

35 Reagan, for one abbr.

36 — Passos

38 Civil disobedience actions

39 Bad loss

40 Marcupai

43 Inglese

45 Eel

46 Holder of goods

48 In trust

50 People of a

51 Chm. dynasty

52 Signer of

53 Extremist chapter

55 Blood condition

56 Indian prince

57 Hoople word

58 Offended

60 Fib

Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

ANION BRAPIT OSLITEN
NICE SALLON NOISE
EXTENSIONIS PUNIT
LIFE DIAL PRECIOUS
ESTABLISH STRAIGHT
SALIS REATITUTIOINIS
EXILLI MEIRON CEMIS
LITTESION NODENSE
ALL KHIAN SIDO
DORIAL LITINSEID
GAGMAIN AERIDORI
ALIDE CONIVIRATION
SITAIN REATITUTIOINIS
WOLD MORTIS STEERS

Washington cancels second exercise with New Zealand

WELLINGTON (R) — The United States has cancelled a second defence exercise with New Zealand following Wellington's ban on port visits by nuclear ships, Defence Minister Frank O'Flynn said Saturday.

An Orion patrol plane was to have flown to Hawaii on Feb. 28 for anti-submarine exercises with the U.S. Navy.

Mr. O'Flynn told the New Zealand Press Association in an interview the United States told Wellington on Thursday the Orion's flight to Hawaii was "not appropriate at present".

Mr. O'Flynn said no reason had been given for the cancellation. But added there was no doubt it was a response to the government's refusal to allow a visit by the destroyer Buchanan.

The Labour government elected last year has banned nuclear-armed or nuclear-powered ships from New Zealand, where public opinion has been flavoured by France's continued bomb tests in the South Pacific.

The refusal to allow a port visit by the Buchanan was followed by U.S. withdrawal two weeks ago from the Sea Eagle naval exercise

with New Zealand and Australia planned for early next month. The United States also called off a visit to military headquarters in Hawaii by the New Zealand parliament's defence committee.

Mr. O'Flynn said New Zealand normally sent an Orion to Hawaii four or five times a year for anti-submarine exercises.

Asked if he expected further exercises to be cancelled because of New Zealand's anti-nuclear stance, Mr. O'Flynn replied: "Who can say... I wouldn't be surprised if that may be the case for a while... I'm not really prepared to speculate."

The minister had told parliament on Thursday he did not expect cancellation of any of the 29 military exercises with Australia and United States scheduled for this year.

Mr. O'Flynn's interview came a day after nearly 2,000 people massed outside parliament to ex-

press support for the ban on nuclear warships. Deputy Prime Minister Geoffrey Palmer said in welcoming the crowd that large demonstrations outside parliament in support of a government were not common.

Mr. Palmer said the demonstrators were supporting "a moral issue of great importance to the future of this planet." Meanwhile Japanese Foreign Minister Shintaro Abe said Saturday Japan may accept a visit by the U.S. destroyer Buchanan, the vessel banned from New Zealand because it might be carrying nuclear weapons.

Mr. Abe said Japan would not reject the ship unless Washington specifically stated in prior consultations that it carried nuclear weapons.

But he said the United States had to initiate such consultations, adding Japan would reject requests to bring in nuclear weapons.

He was replying in parliament to an opposition Socialist who asked if the Japanese government would agree to any requests by Washington for a visit by the Buchanan.

Mr. Abe said Japan treated sep-

arately ships capable of carrying nuclear weapons from those actually armed with them.

He said that U.S. naval ships had the right to visit Japan under a bilateral security treaty and related arrangements.

The Japanese government has said it believes that all U.S. military ships which have visited Japan carried no nuclear weapons because the United States had not asked for consultations.

Pacifists and left-wingers in Japan have said it is unbelievable that many U.S. vessels which visit Japan do not carry nuclear arms. Japan, the only country ever to suffer nuclear attack, bans production, possession and arrival of nuclear arms.

Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone told parliament Saturday: "I believe the United States must be somewhat bewildered with Japan's policy."

He said this was because the policy differed from those of Britain, West Germany and other NATO members which permit deployment of U.S. nuclear missiles on their territory.

But Mr. Nakasone repeated that Japan would keep its nuclear ban.

Vietnamese mount anti-rebel sweeps

BANGKOK (R) — Vietnamese troops Saturday mounted "search and destroy" sweeps against guerrilla remnants in the former Khmer Rouge sanctuary of Phnom Malai in western Kampuchea.

Thai military officers at the Thai-Kampuchean border reported no significant opposition to the Vietnamese and said only sporadic small-arm fire was heard from the camp.

They said fighting appeared to have shifted deeper inside Kampuchea.

The officers quoted Khmer Rouge guerrillas as saying they killed 12 Vietnamese soldiers when they ambushed a supply convoy heading to Phnom Malai Saturday.

Khmer Rouge guerrillas said they still had about 5,000 fighters operating in small units at Phnom Malai, a 400 square kilometre mountainous region.

A Khmer Rouge radio broadcast said the guerrillas had killed 55 Vietnamese troops and

wounded 100 in a night attack on Siem Reap, capital of Battambang province.

The broadcast, monitored in Bangkok, said the guerrillas destroyed 10 barracks, one plane, one helicopter, three tanks and food, weapons and ammunition in the 30-minute attack on Tuesday. There was no independent confirmation of the report.

International relief agency workers said about 40,000 Kampuchean civilians who fled from Phnom Malai into Thailand at the height of the fighting there would be moved to safer areas.

Most of the refugees are at Khao Sarapi, an area of scrubland near the border which has become a sea of makeshift huts.

With the capture of the Khmer Rouge headquarters at Phnom Malai and the Phum Thmei base Friday, Vietnamese troops have virtually seized all guerrilla strongholds along the border.

The bases of the Khmer People's National Liberation Front, headed by former Prime Minister

Son Sann, were overrun in the early stages of the Vietnamese dry-season offensive which began in November.

Thai military analysts said the victory may prove short-lived as Hanoi's forces now had to seal the 700 kilometre long Thai-Kampuchean border and hold on to captured territory during the May-to-November rainy season.

Former Kampuchean head of state Prince Norodom Sihanouk Friday night appealed to China to attack Vietnam in order to save the guerrilla coalition he heads which links the Khmer Rouge, his and Son Sann's forces.

"The Khmer Rouge have lost against the Vietnamese army. Son Sann's army has been wiped out... is China willing to save us or not? If so China must teach Vietnam a formidable second lesson," Prince Sihanouk said in a speech in Pattaya, Thailand.

China and Vietnam fought a brief border war in 1979 — what Peking called a "first lesson" for Hanoi — in response to Vietnam's invasion of Kampuchea to oust the pro-Peking Khmer Rouge from Phnom Penh.

Chinese President Li Xianmin is due to visit Thailand next month and the issue of more Chinese support for the guerrillas is expected to figure prominently in his discussions with leaders.

Pakistan continues to arrest critics

ISLAMABAD (R) — Pakistan's military government has detained the key figure in its murder case against executed former Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, police said.

Ahmad Raza Qasuri is the latest of several critics the government has arrested in the run-up to general elections on Feb. 25.

Mr. Qasuri brought the murder conspiracy case against Mr. Bhutto which led to the deposed leader's hanging in 1979.

Supporters of Mr. Qasuri, a candidate for the capital's single National Assembly seat, said he was arrested Friday after claiming that the government had opened the way to massive voter rigging by not making voters produce identity cards.

Mr. Qasuri brought the murder conspiracy charge against Mr. Bhutto following a car ambush in 1974 in which his father was killed but he escaped. The army pursued the case after seizing power in 1977 and hanged Mr. Bhutto for it.

The main opposition parties are boycotting the elections. Most leaders of the main opposition 11-party Movement for the Restoration of Democracy (MRD) are now under detention.

Local officials have confirmed at least 125 arrests around the country.

Because political parties and public debate are banned from the poll, Pakistan's first general election since 1977, campaign races focus on local personalities and vary from town to town.

Mr. Qasuri was arrested for addressing a crowd, something his supporters said a federal minister running in the next constituency does every day in defiance of martial law orders banning public rallies.

Gandhi rules out sending troops to Sri Lanka

NEW DELHI (R) — Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi has rejected a Sri Lankan Tamil leader's appeal for Indian troops to be sent to the island.

"There is no question of taking any such action," the United Press of India news agency Saturday quoted Mr. Gandhi as telling reporters at Hyderabad.

Mr. Gandhi was commenting on a call by Tamil leader Appapillai Amirthalingam for a "Bangladesh-type" intervention in Sri Lanka to protect Tamils there.

Mr. Amirthalingam had compared developments in Sri Lanka after the latest ethnic unrest with the situation in 1971 when India fought a war with Pakistan after millions of refugees fled to India from the former East Pakistan, now Bangladesh.

Mr. Amirthalingam, general secretary of the Tamil United Liberation Front and based in the South Indian city of Madras, said military intervention would prevent what he described as genocide.

Relations between India and Sri Lanka are strained over the unrest, sparked by Sri Lankan Tamil guerrillas' fight for an independent state.

Press reports say hundreds of Tamils fleeing from Sri Lanka have been landing in boats every day at the small south India fishing port of Rameshwaram.

Rameshwaram, 25 kilometres from Sri Lanka across the Palk Straits, was the scene of violent protests two days ago by people angered by reports that the Sri Lankan Navy had killed two Indian fishermen.

The Indian government said Friday it was deeply concerned over the killings and summoned Sri Lanka's high commissioner in New Delhi to receive its protest and a demand for compensation.

New Delhi also drew Colombo's attention to the influx of refugees from Sri Lanka estimated at 400 daily for the past 10 days, and said it was creating difficulties for India.

Walesa answers prosecutor's summons

WARSAW (R) — Solidarity leader Lech Walesa Saturday answered a prosecutor's summons in Gdansk alleging that his activities harmed the government's economic reform programme and its relations with the Roman Catholic Church.

About 50 supporters of the banned free trade union were outside the court building in the bakie port as Mr. Walesa entered with his lawyer, Jacek Taylor.

They cheered and shouted: "Keep going, we are all behind you!"

Mr. Walesa told reporters he would refuse to answer questions but would submit recent statements he has issued together with other Solidarity activists calling for national protests on Feb. 28 against new food price increases.

Mr. Walesa received the summons Friday as the authorities announced they had charged seven Solidarity activists with fomenting unrest and illegal ac-



RAIN-MADE CANAL: Water gushes near a residential area in Amman following the two-day rainy and snowy weather since Thursday afternoon (Photo by Yousef Al 'Allan)

40 killed in Indian liner blaze

NEW DELHI (R) — A total of 40 people died in a blaze aboard an Indian cruise ship on its way from Singapore to the southern state of Tamil Nadu this week, the Press Trust of India (PTI) reported Saturday.

PTI quoted Tamil Nadu Chief Secretary K. Chockalingam as telling reporters in the state capital Madras Friday that 662 of the M.V. Chidambaram's 702 passengers were safe. The others were presumed dead.

The fire broke out on Tuesday when the 17,226-tonne liner was about 500 kilometres from Madras. The ship had left Singapore

one week ago, calling at Kelang and Penang in Malaysia. It docked at Madras on Thursday.

Passengers later described a frantic 16-hour battle led by the captain, to control the blaze on the tossing ship.

After inspecting the ship, R.K. Gandhi, chairman of the state-run Shipping Corporation of India, which owns the vessel, said the cause of the fire was unknown.

He said the ship had been scheduled to be scrapped later this year, but now might be scrapped immediately.

Karuppalah Shanmugam, a

Madras shopkeeper, told Reuters the fire broke out near a toilet in the crowded third-class section and smoke swiftly spread through the narrow corridors.

The ship's crew worked to stop passengers returning to smoke-filled cabins to recover television sets and radios they had bought in Singapore, many with their life savings.

The round-trip voyage is popular with Indians because they can partially finance it by buying duty-free goods such as colour televisions at Singapore, and sell them at a profit on their return.

Manila fire appears to have been arson

MANILA (R) — Fire that gutted the five-star regent of Manila Hotel this week claiming up to 27 lives appears to have been arson, a lawyer for the Hong Kong-based management group said Saturday.

A military spokesman also said four policemen had been arrested for looting in the debris of the luxury hotel overlooking Manila Bay.

John Martel, lawyer for Regent International Hotels, said after visiting the still-smouldering hotel:

"It is becoming increasingly clear that the authorities' assessment of a carefully conceived and brutally implemented arson attack is supported by the physical evidence."

Armed guards were posted at the hotel following complaints by the management, embassies and guests, most of whom were foreigners, that rooms as well as hotel bars and kitchens were being ransacked by police and firemen.

The official Philippine News Agency (PNA) said at least four policemen, including two corporals, had been arrested Saturday

and detained in a military stockade.

Following the complaints, army and police commanders ordered that all police and firemen leaving the hotel be searched.

Firemen are still trying to scour the upper floors of the nine-storey hotel for more bodies. But intense heat, thick smoke and sporadic outbreaks of fresh fire have hampered search operations.

A number of elevators were finally opened and found to be empty.

They said some of the floors were severely weakened by the fire and there was a danger of ceilings and floors collapsing.

The fire broke out shortly after midnight on Wednesday, apparently in two widely separate places. Simultaneously, the hotel's electricity and telephones broke down.

Although most of the 280 or so guests managed to stumble to safety down smoke-filled indoor fire escapes, many were trapped and several are still unaccounted for, according to hotel registry lists.

At least one person was reported to have died when he tried to leap from his hotel room.

Firemen trained water into smouldering room in the ninth floor after police clambered up fire engine ladders and shot at sealed windows with automatic rifles. Firemen had been unable to force open the thick glazed glass with their standard equipment.

"What we intend to do is to reduce the heat with water hoses and as soon as the heat becomes bearable we will search the rooms," said Police Commander Colonel Levi Macasiano who has taken over the firefighting operations.

"I think there are more bodies in the ninth floor and we hope to bring them down tomorrow," he told reporters. "It is dangerous at night. The firemen will remain here on standby but will continue the search tomorrow."

Macasiano said guards would cordon off the second and ninth floors, where the fire is thought to have started, to prevent destruction of evidence.

Spain may not join EC at target date

MADRID (R) — Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez has raised a possibility that negotiations for Spain to join the European Community (EC) may not be completed in time for entry at the target date of Jan. 1, 1986.

Mr. Gonzalez told reporters after talks with Italian Prime Minister Bettino Craxi Friday that the Community had to soften its terms on agricultural products, fish and the movement of labour to avert another delay in Spain's eight-year bid to join the bloc.

"If there is not greater flexibility an accord will not be reached and if there is no accord there will not be enough time to meet the January 1986 target," he said.

"We cannot accept a halfway position," he added.

The meeting with Mr. Craxi, which followed similar talks in Lisbon over Portugal's bid to join

the 10-nation bloc on the same date, was aimed at persuading him to use the current Italian Community presidency to unblock negotiations.

At the news conference Mr. Craxi repeated his past support for the entry of Portugal and Spain and stressed that all efforts should be made to reach agreement.

"If the difficulties persist we run the risk of a bad end to the negotiations and that is something we must avoid," he said.

Although they said it was possible talks could fail, both Socialist prime ministers said they thought a solution could be worked out before the Community summit in late March.

Spanish officials say negotiations must be completed by then to leave the parliaments of the 10 member states time to ratify Spanish accession for entry at

the start of 1986.

Greece in particular has presented opposition and earlier this week renewed its threat to stop Spain and Portugal from joining unless the Community adopts a special aid plan for the Mediterranean.

Other obstacles lie in Spain's rejection of the 10's proposals on fisheries, wine, and agriculture. Spain's huge production of wine, olive oil and fruit and large fishing fleet pose major problems for Community members which are divided on how to absorb them.

They also differ on when to grant Spanish workers full Community rights.

Mr. Craxi stayed overnight in Spain on a private visit following the official talks with Mr. Gonzalez. He also met King Juan Carlos during his stay in Madrid.

COLUMN

Gunmen steal 3.5m Lebanese pounds

BEIRUT (R) — Gunmen Friday night robbed a firm of moneychangers of 3.5 million Lebanese pounds (\$230,000) on the Green Line crossing between mostly Christian east and mainly Muslim west Beirut, state-run Beirut Radio said. A second car carrying 1.5 million Lebanese pounds (\$100,000) escaped the attack, the radio said. The moneychangers were moving the money from east Beirut to the airport.

Stolen Egyptian relief found in Japan

TOKYO (AP) — A 2,300-year-old Egyptian stone relief stolen in 1973 was found on display in a public art gallery in south-western Japan, a museum official said Friday. Egyptian and Japanese officials discovered the relief on Feb. 3 on display at the Shimomoseki Municipal Gallery of Art in Shimomoseki, Yamaguchi prefecture (state). Vice-Director Nobuaki Kimoto said. It was stolen from a storehouse in 1973 after Egyptian archaeologists unearthed it from a temple site in Dendera, a city on the Upper Nile, 900 kilometres south of Cairo and known for its dedication to the worship of the Goddess Hathor. Mr. Kimoto said the museum purchased the relief from a Tokyo Art dealer last June for 25 million yen (\$96,000). It was brought into Japan by a British dealer, he added. He said he has not received instructions from either the Japanese or Egyptian government regarding the piece.

Woman telephoned 7,000 times in labour dispute

LONDON (R) — Disgruntled civil servants telephoned a woman's home 7,000 times because of a typing error. Her number was circulated to 90,000 Social Security Department staff to call if they had complaints about their pay after a seven-month dispute, officials said. The typist's error meant the woman was inundated with 200 calls a day. British Telecom said that after about a month the number of "this poor lady" had been changed and staff told the correct number to dial.

'Wild' wedding held in western India

NEW DELHI, India (AP) — The three couples paced nervously before the wedding ceremony. Not unusual, except in this case they were on all fours. These young brides and grooms were tigers. Thousands of curious people thronged a park in western India Friday to witness the "marriage" of three pairs of tigers, a ceremony organised by city officials to heighten awareness about wildlife conservation. The ceremony, led by a pandit chanting mantras, was held at the Pashwa Park in Pune, about 110 kilometres south east of Bombay. An elephant and his mahout greeted guests at the entrance to the park. According to a report from Pune by the United News of India news agency, the two-and-a-half-year-old tigers, Ganga, Laxmi and Rukmini, "covered" around their bridal cage with the four-and-a-half-year-old grooms, Amar, Akbar and Antony. The pandit, Pandurang Gopal Kanade, said one of the tigers was restless and kept pacing inside the cage during the ritual, while the others took it "in stride." Park officials said the newlyweds would have to delay their honeymoons, however. The tigers will be kept together in the same cage for only brief periods every day until they get used to each other.

Shipwreck brings islanders a dream of Scotch on the rocks

LONDON (R) — A shipwreck on the tiny channel island of Alderney has stoked dreams of "whisky galore" — a real-life version of Compton Mackenzie's novel about a harvest of liquor washed ashore in the Scottish Hebrides. Twice a day inhabitants of the British island off the French coast scramble across the rocks at low tide to see what has come ashore from the wrecked container ship Corinna. "They are already calling her Scotch on the rocks," said the London Daily Mail Saturday under a photo of a beach strewn with gas cookers and other household appliances.

About 100 black miners hurt in S. African clashes

JOHANNESBURG (R) — About 100 black mineworkers were injured Friday night when police opened fire with birdshot during an unofficial strike at a gold mine, police said Saturday.

A spokesman said police were called to the East Driefontein Mine west of Johannesburg, where some workers were intimidating others to support the stoppage.

The police were stoned by the crowd and opened fire with birdshot. About 100 were injured, but only one was admitted to hos-

pital and his condition is not serious," he said.

A mine spokeswoman said about 1,100 mineworkers were involved in the stoppage but almost all had returned to work Saturday.

She said the reasons for the stoppage were unclear but Cyril Ramaphosa, general secretary of the National Union of Mineworkers, said workers were complaining about the quality of food, the handling of disciplinary cases and assaults by white miners on black workers.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
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THE TALE OF THE SEVEN OF CLUBS

DEAR READERS: We have had many requests over the years for these hands we consider to be our favorites. That makes quite a list. For the time being, therefore, we are devoting the Sunday column to a series of famous hands. At the end of the series, we will go back to our weekly question and answer column. Both vulnerable, South deals.

NORTH
♠ KQ84
♥ Q92
♦ 63
♣ KQ98

WEST
♠ A7
♥ J65
♦ 1087542
♣ 52

EAST
♠ 1096532
♥ 10
♦ 18
♣ A J104

SOUTH
♠ J
♥ AK8743
♦ AKQ
♣ 763

The bidding:
South West North East
1 ♥ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
3 ♥ Pass 5 ♥ Pass
6 ♥ Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: Five of ♠.

The Seven of Clubs was in a bellicose mood. "All these stories that you have been telling in the column, glorifying cards for puny deeds," he said argumentatively. "If you really want to have something to write about, there was the time my owner won three tricks in my suit and I was the highest of the three winners!"

"It was during a major team championship, and I was being carried by a tall, lovely blonde who soon found herself in a small slam in hearts on the auction shown."

"For some unknown reason, West had clung tenaciously to the seven of spades. When declarer now cashed the queen of diamonds, discarding dummy's king of clubs, East was convinced that declarer had the last spade and that, if he shuffled a spade, dummy would score the last three tricks. So East bravely parted with the ace of clubs."

"My lady's pseudo-queens had succeeded. She cashed me and my younger sister, the Six of Clubs, to pick up the two outstanding cards in the suit. Young Trey became the fulfilling trick!"